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HARVARD
MEDICAL LIBRARY



IN THE
Francis A. Countway
Library of Medicine
BOSTON

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THE HISTORY OF THE BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

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THE BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

I

The First Boston Medical Library 1805 to 1826

THE FIRST Boston Medical Library was one of a number of Societies started in Boston in the first few years of the nineteenth century by a group of educated and literary men soon after the condition of the country had become more or less settled, following the end of the Revolutionary War and the ratification of the Constitution. An act passed in 1798 in Massachusetts, and slightly changed in 1806, permitted "any seven or more persons in any town or district, who have or shall become Proprietors in common of any library, to form themselves into a society, or body politic, for the purpose of holding and using such libraries." The Proprietors were enabled to manage the same, and they were to be called the Proprietors of the Social Library in the Town of ——, and if other libraries were started in the same town, the second one was to be called the Second Social

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Library in the Town of ——, and so on. One vote was allowed to each share.

The word "Social," in this connection, has no reference to "Society" or "Sociability," but means that the library is owned by proprietors or partners (Latin, *Socii*), who manage and use the books for their own purposes. This is to be distinguished from the circulating library, which is owned by one or more persons, who make a profit by renting their books to others.

In Boston the First Social, or the Social Law Library, started in 1804, is still in existence and called by its original name. On July 1, 1805, the Boston Medical Library was instituted. This was ceded to the Boston Athenaeum in 1826, and the Committee of the Proprietors of the former in making the agreement with the Athenaeum signed as "Proprietors of the Second Social or Medical Library."

In 1801 The Society for the Study of Natural Philosophy was founded, of which Dr. John C. Warren was later a member. Then came the Anthology Club, the predecessor of the Athenaeum, one of whose objects was to establish a reading room and library of reference. With this Club Dr. James Jackson was connected. The Medical Improvement Society, which in its earliest form had a life of about a dozen years, was organized by Drs. Warren and Jackson in 1803, with Drs. John Dixwell, John C. Howard, John Jeffries,

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John Fleet, John Homans and George C. Shattuck as fellow members. They met at each other's houses on Thursday evenings to read and discuss medical papers. They brought together a few books at the home of Dr. John Fleet, in Milk Street, which became the Boston Medical Library, the names above mentioned very likely being the ones who instituted the Library July 1, 1805. The officers were: *Librarian*, Dr. JOHN FLEET, *Secretary*, Dr. JOHN G. COFFIN, *Treasurer*, Dr. JOHN C. WARREN, *Trustees*, JAMES JACKSON, M.B., and Dr. JOHN C. HOWARD.

Dr. Warren was twenty-six years old and Dr. Jackson twenty-seven; Dr. Fleet was thirty-seven, and was the first graduate from the Medical Department of Harvard, receiving the degree of M.B. in 1788; he was also the first to receive the degree of M.D. in 1795. His graduating thesis is in the present Medical Library. He was the first assistant appointed in the Medical Department, being made assistant to Dr. John Warren in 1793, Secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society from 1798 to 1802 and its Librarian from 1800 to 1813.

In the *Boston Gazette* for July 11, 1805, is the following notice:

"The Proprietors of the Boston Medical Library are notified that the first annual assessment is now due and they are requested to pay it to the subscriber, JOHN C. WARREN, *Treasurer*."

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The assessment was ten dollars.

Among the papers of Dr. John Jeffries was the following autograph announcement:

"Dec. 30, 1805. The Boston Medical Library will be opened Thursday next at Dr. Fleet's. A few books only have arrived. N.B. Books received and delivered on Mondays and Thursdays between 3 and 5 P.M."

In 1806 the Librarian and Secretary were as above, but Dr. Asa Bullard took the place as Treasurer of Dr. Warren, who became Trustee in Dr. Jackson's place. The following year, 1807, Dr. Warren was made Librarian, a position which he held for three years. In about 1807 the books were removed from Dr. Fleet's to the Apothecary Shop of Amos Smith, Sub-librarian, 39 Marlboro (now Washington) Street, near Milk Street.

In the *Columbian Centenel* for July 8, 1807, is the following notice:

"*Medical Library*

"The Proprietors of the 'Second Social' Library in the Town of Boston, or the Boston Medical Library are informed that their Annual Meeting will be held at Vila's (Coffee House) in Court St. this day, July 8, at 4 P.M. A general and punctual attendance is requested, as business of importance to the corporation will be transacted.

J. G. COFFIN, *Clerk.*"

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The removal of the library from Dr. Fleet's to Amos Smith's may have been determined upon at this meeting, as Dr. Warren was then made Librarian in place of Dr. Fleet. At the time of the removal a printed list, owned by Dr. B. Joy Jeffries a number of years ago, shows that there were twenty-nine titles and forty-three volumes.

Dr. J. C. Warren had begun an anatomy course in 1805 at rooms over White's Apothecary Shop, the so-called Apothecaries' Hall, No. 49 Marlboro (now Washington) Street, near Franklin Street, about where 398 Washington Street now is, and Dr. Gorham had given lessons in chemistry there, so that the place was quite a medical centre; and when the Harvard Medical School was moved from Cambridge to Boston in December, 1810, it occupied the rooms where Dr. Warren had established his courses. Dr. Warren was Librarian of the Boston Medical Library, and very naturally the Library was then moved from Amos Smith's, 39 Marlboro Street, to the new site of the Medical School, 49 Marlboro Street. For several years Dr. William Gamage, who had helped Dr. Warren in arranging his Anatomical Museum, was Secretary of the Library, and Dr. Thomas I. Parker was Librarian from 1811 to 1816. Dr. Parker was one of the physicians of the Boston Dispensary and had his own office at 49 Marlboro Street, where he had charge of an electric machine and operated on patients from the Dispensary.

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THE BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

In 1816 the Medical School moved to its new building, called the Massachusetts Medical College, in Mason Street, where the fire-engine house now is, remaining there till 1847; and in 1819 the Boston Medical Library made an arrangement to unite with the Library of the Massachusetts Medical College and moved into the new quarters, Medical Hall, where it remained until 1826.

I do not know why the Boston Medical Library gave up its arrangement with the Medical Faculty; possibly its room was wanted, perhaps the elementary text-books given by the Faculty to form the Medical College Library may have been all that were needed by the Medical School.

The Boston Athenaeum had already absorbed many societies, and in 1826 the Trustees appointed a Committee, composed of Nathaniel Bowditch, Francis C. Gray, George Ticknor, Thomas W. Ward and Francis J. Oliver to consider the expediency of uniting in the Athenaeum the principal circulating libraries of Boston, that the deficiencies of the larger library might be overcome. The Medical Library seems to have fallen a victim to this Committee, and entered into an agreement with the Proprietors of the Athenaeum by which the library was ceded to the Athenaeum, May 3, 1826.

The officers at the time of merger were:

Librarian: GEORGE HAYWARD, M.D.
Treasurer: ENOCH HALE, M.D.

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FIRST BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

Clerk: JOHN WARE, M.D.

Trustees: GEORGE HAYWARD, M.D., ENOCH HALE, M.D., JOHN WARE, M.D., WALTER CHANNING, M.D., WOODBRIDGE STRONG, M.D.

After reciting the terms of the agreement, there follows:

"In witness of all which we, the undersigned, committees for this purpose on behalf of the parties to this agreement, have hereto set our hands the day and year first above written" (May 3rd, 1826).

NATHANIEL BOWDITCH
F. C. GRAY
FRANCIS J. OLIVER
Committee of the Proprietors of the Boston Athenaeum.

J. G. COFFIN
GEORGE HAYWARD
WM. J. WALKER
ENOCH HALE, JR.
JOHN WARE
Committee of the Proprietors of the Second Social or Medical Library."

And on May 26, 1826, the Medical Library had become a part of the Athenaeum.

Each Proprietor of the Medical Library was allowed the privilege of a life subscription to the Athenaeum on paying five dollars per annum, or he might become a Proprietor on paying one hundred and fifty dollars and have the right, on removal from Boston, to transfer his share for and during his life. Shares were considered worth

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about three hundred dollars at that time. Members of the Boston Medical Association were to have access to the privileges of the Athenaeum for the coming year on paying five dollars. The Medical Department of the Athenaeum was to receive its full share of the sums applied for the purchase of books.

There were at that time seventy-one physicians in Boston, of whom thirty-one, or nearly one-half, were Proprietors of the Medical Library as follows:

Zabdiel B. Adams	Anson Hooker
George Bates	William Ingalls
Horace Bean	David Osgood
Jacob Bigelow	George W. Otis
Asa Bullard	George Parkman
John G. Coffin	John Randall
Walter Channing	Chandler Robbins, Jr.
Blowers Danforth	Edward Reynolds
John Dixwell	Samuel A. Shurtleff
Amos Farnsworth	Woodbridge Strong
Josiah F. Flagg	Joshua H. Hayward
Thomas Foster	Solomon D. Townsend
John Gorham	William J. Walker
Enoch Hale, Jr.	John C. Warren
George Hayward	John Ware
Charles Weld	

Of these thirty-one, all but one became Proprietors of the Athenaeum, each paying one hundred and fifty dollars. The Medical Library

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was said to contain more than two thousand volumes of well-selected modern works on medicine, surgery, and chemistry, purchased within ten years at an expense of forty-five hundred dollars. The books were taken over by the Athenaeum and appraised at the sum which the Medical Library had paid for them (rather different from the present method of estimating the money value of ordinary medical books ten or more years old). The Athenaeum considered that its property had been increased more than nine thousand dollars by this union.

The Athenaeum was then in Pearl Street, remaining there until 1849, when it moved to its present location in Beacon Street. In 1896 the Athenaeum notified the present Boston Medical Library of its willingness to turn over its medical department to the latter, the actual transfer of some of the books not taking place until several years later, so that the books of the original Boston Medical Library, after a century's existence and many changes of location, seem now to have reached their proper destination. We have a list of the original members of the Library in 1805, of the thirty-one Proprietors in 1826, also of the officers from 1805 to 1826, and I have given the seven locations of the books before they reached their present quarters.

We are fortunate in having what I take to be a complete set of all the catalogues issued. Some

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of them are very interesting, and it is surprising that in those early days the members should have felt like having a printed catalogue every few years. It would seem as if a hand-written catalogue with space for accessions would have been sufficient and less expensive. Perhaps the fact that Thomas Fleet, brother of the Librarian, John Fleet, was a printer may have influenced them. The paper and printing of the catalogues are excellent and are still in good condition.

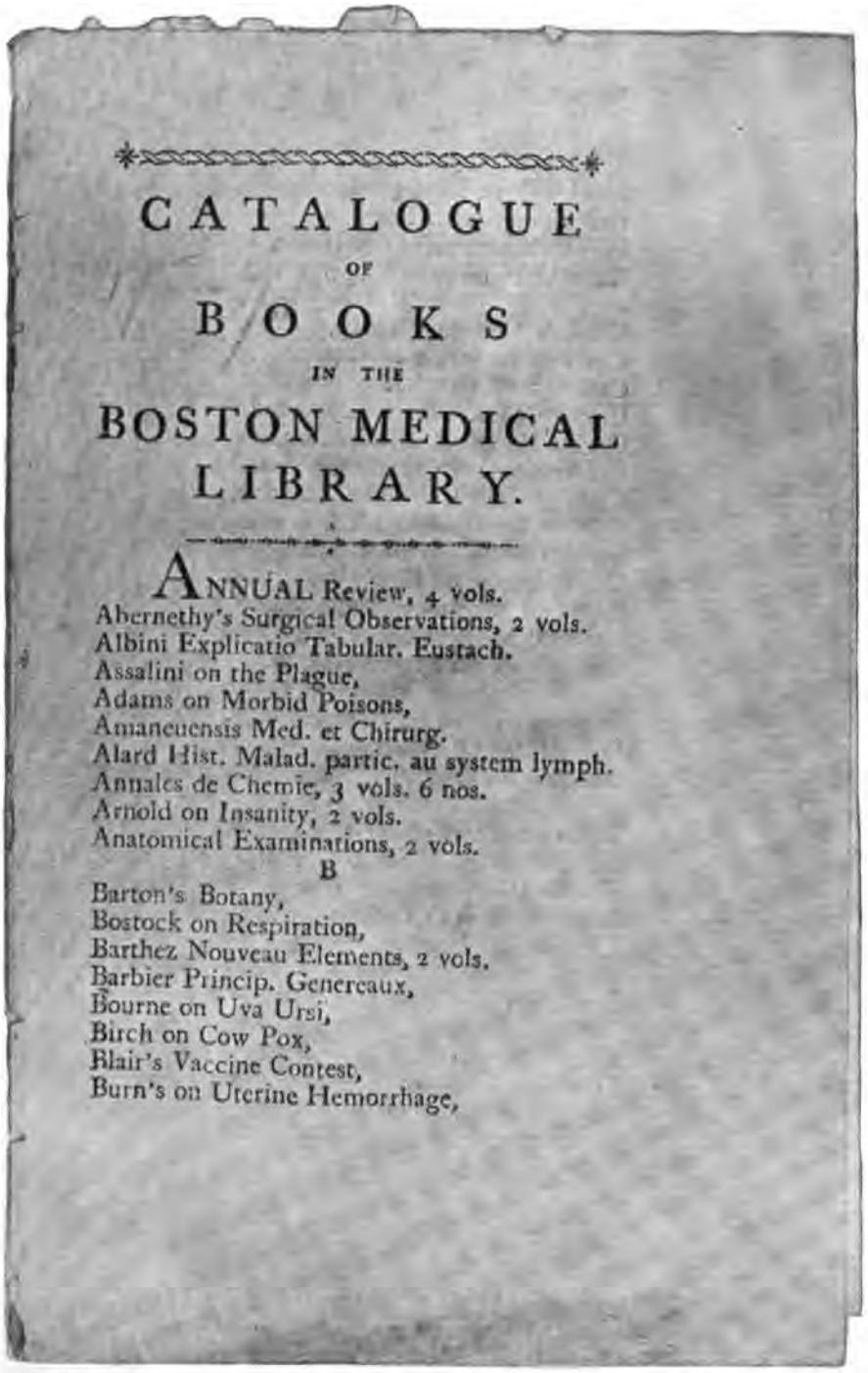
The earliest catalogue in possession of the present Medical Library has eight pages, but no title page. The first page is headed:

"Catalogue of Books in the Boston Medical Library," the alphabetical list of books following on the lower half of the same page. There are 145 titles and 184 volumes, and at the end is a "list of books which have been sent for but have not yet been received." No Rules, Regulations or names of officers are given. It is not dated, but is certainly earlier than one dated 1808; perhaps it is 1807, for it is a longer list than the one that belonged to Dr. Jeffries, which was probably 1806. This seems to be one of the earliest medical library catalogues in this country. There is one of the Boylston Medical Library instituted 1802, but the date of the catalogue is not certain.

The next publication is entitled:

"Catalogue of Books in the Boston Medical Library, and the Rules and Regulations concern-

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CATALOGUE

OF

BOOKS

IN THE

BOSTON MEDICAL

LIBRARY.

ANNUAL Review, 4 vols.
Abernethy's Surgical Observations, 2 vols.
Albini Explicatio Tabular. Eustach.
Assalini on the Plague,
Adams on Morbid Poisons,
Amaneuensis Med. et Chirurg.
Alard Hist. Malad. partic. au system lymph.
Annales de Chemie, 3 vols. 6 nos.
Arnold on Insanity, 2 vols.
Anatomical Examinations, 2 vols.

B

Barton's Botany,
Bostock on Respiration,
Barthez Nouveau Elements, 2 vols.
Barbier Princip. Genereaux,
Bourne on Uva Ursi,
Birch on Cow Pox,
Blair's Vaccine Contest,
Burn's on Uterine Hemorrhage,

I — A PAGE FROM THE EARLIEST CATALOGUE

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ing the same. Also, a Statement of the Trustees to the Proprietors. Boston. Printed by Thomas Fleet, No. 5 Cornhill, 1808." pp. 16. This contains 303 volumes. The Rules and Regulations are deserving of notice.

1. The Library is in charge of the Sub-librarian, from whom books may be received and to whom they may be delivered at any time. (Before this they seem to have been received and delivered only two afternoons a week.)

2. Proprietors may take out three books at once, including one pamphlet.

FINES

3. Pamphlets may be kept out one week, an octavo volume three weeks, quartos and folios five weeks. (The larger the book the longer it might be retained, and also the greater the fine for over detention.) Fines were 10 cents for a pamphlet, 15 cents for an octavo and 20 cents for larger volumes for detention of each week beyond the time allowed. If retained 10 weeks, the cost of the book was to be added to the fine and the book might be kept.

4. The Sub-librarian will receive fines, but will not undertake to demand them. Query: How many fines not demanded did he receive?

6. The Librarian will examine the records of the Sub-librarian once a week. If he finds any fines due he will make a list of them and place it

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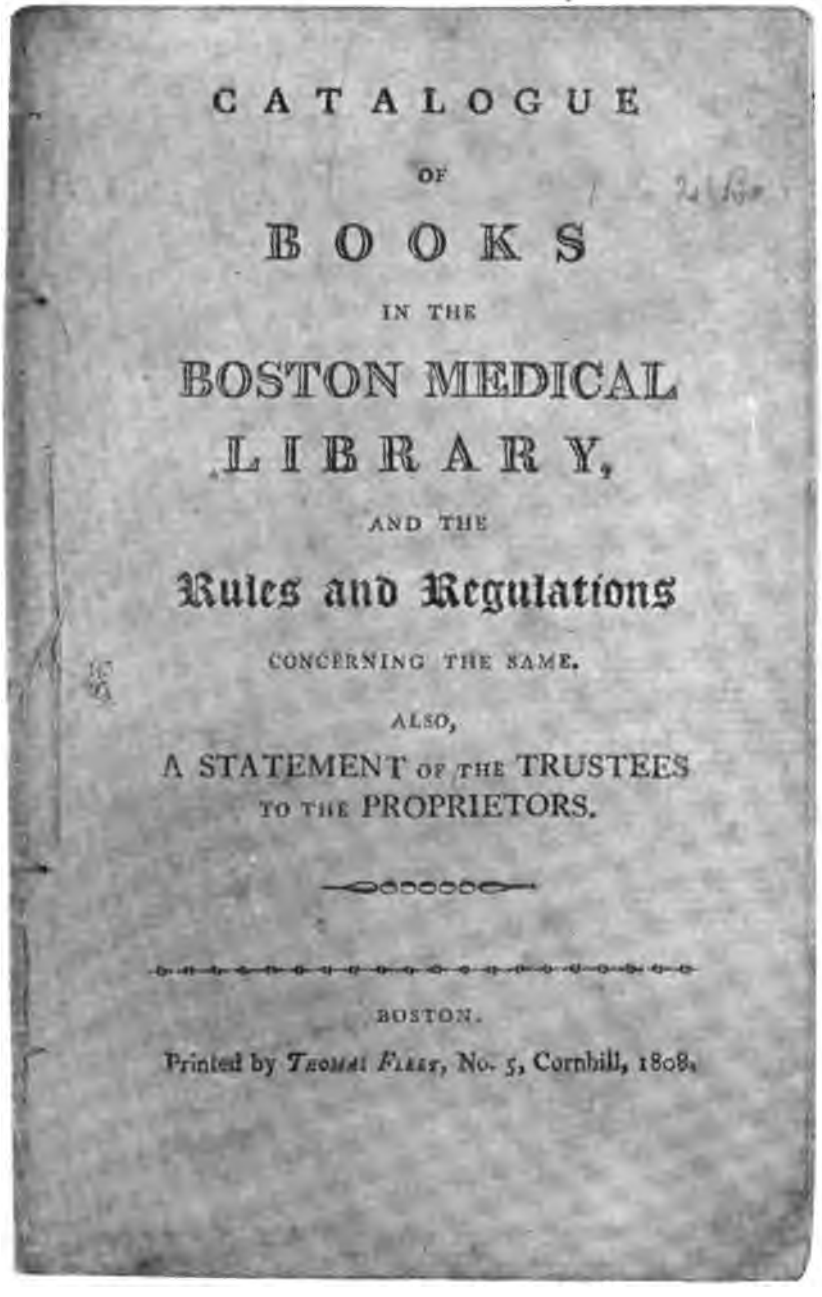
on the inside of the library door. If three weeks after such list has been posted the fine or fines are not paid, he will take down such paper and place in its stead another stating that the right of A. B. to use the library is suspended.

On November 18, 1807, it was VOTED: that the Sub-librarian shall not expose to view any books sent to the library by a book-seller till the same have been examined, labeled and arranged on the shelves by the Librarian. The Librarian was requested to put locks on the door of the library, which should not be opened except in the presence of the Librarian or Sub-librarian.

The Statement of the Trustees referred to on the title page is as follows:

"May 30, 1808. The Trustees have thought it might be agreeable to the Proprietors to receive, at the end of the third year, some general information of the state of the library, and of such improvements as it is capable of receiving. They cannot refrain from congratulating the Proprietors that this establishment has progressed so rapidly, from a diminutive commencement, to its present importance and usefulness. Through its channels, the physicians of this town are now constantly able to obtain the recent and valuable improvements made by the more advanced science of Europe. The library received all the periodical publications of Great Britain which relate to medical subjects, namely: The *Medical & Physical*

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CATALOGUE

OF

BOOKS

IN THE

BOSTON MEDICAL

LIBRARY,

AND THE

Rules and Regulations

CONCERNING THE SAME.

ALSO,

A STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES TO THE PROPRIETORS.

BOSTON.

Printed by THOMAS FLEET, No. 5, Cornhill, 1808.

II — TITLE PAGE OF CATALOGUE OF 1808

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Journal of London, the London *Medical Review*, Nicholson's *Journal of Chemistry and the Arts*, the *Memoirs of the London Medical Society*, the *Transactions of the Royal Society*, Aiken's *Annual Review* and the *Medical and Surgical Journal* of Edinborough; nearly all the other English Medical Publications, made since the formation of the library, have also been obtained. Among these may be noted the splendid works of Mr. John Bell and Mr. Astley Cooper, Adams on Morbid Poisons, Walter on the Nerves, Willan on Cow-pox, Saunderson on the Ear, Scarpa on the Eye, Fox on the Teeth, Heberden's Commentaries, Clutterbuck on Fever, Wilson on Fever, Pinel on Insanity, Hamilton on Purgative Medicines, Murray's System of Medicine, Sinclair on Health and Longevity, etc. The most useful new works have been obtained from France, such as; the *Journal de Médicine, Chirurgie et Pharmacie, Annals de Chemie, Mémoires de la Société Médicale d'Emulation, Elemens de la Science de l'Homme* of Barthez, *Physiologie positive* of Fodéré, etc. Besides these the Trustees have paid for, and daily hope to receive from France, a most valuable Dictionary of Natural History, a voluminous system of French Medical Science, a condensed collection of the best French medical writers and other new works.

"The medical publications of American physicians have been procured without any exception;

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of these are the New York *Medical Repository*, the Philadelphia *Medical Museum*, the Philadelphia *Medical & Physical Journal*, Rush's *Medical Inquiries*, Barton's *Elements of Botany*, etc. All these books are firmly and handsomely bound. The Trustees have lately ventured to add the six published volumes of Shaw's *Zoölogy*.

"Whether this collection, placed in a convenient situation, has improved the state of medical knowledge among us and increased the love of medical reading, the Trustees cannot undertake to say. They *can* say, that since the library has been opened nearly 700 applications have been made for books, most of which would not have been seen in Boston, probably, had not this library existed. The Trustees suggest the addition of approved old works. This might be done by donations from the Proprietors of some of the books in their libraries. Such donations the Trustees acknowledge from six of the Proprietors: Asa Bullard 3, J. G. Coffin 10, J. Fleet 3, James Jackson 13, T. I. Parker 1, J. C. Warren 20, total 50. The Trustees have directed the names of the donors to be inscribed on a table suspended in the Library and they propose to have a plate executed for the purpose of infixing the name of the donor with that of the Library.

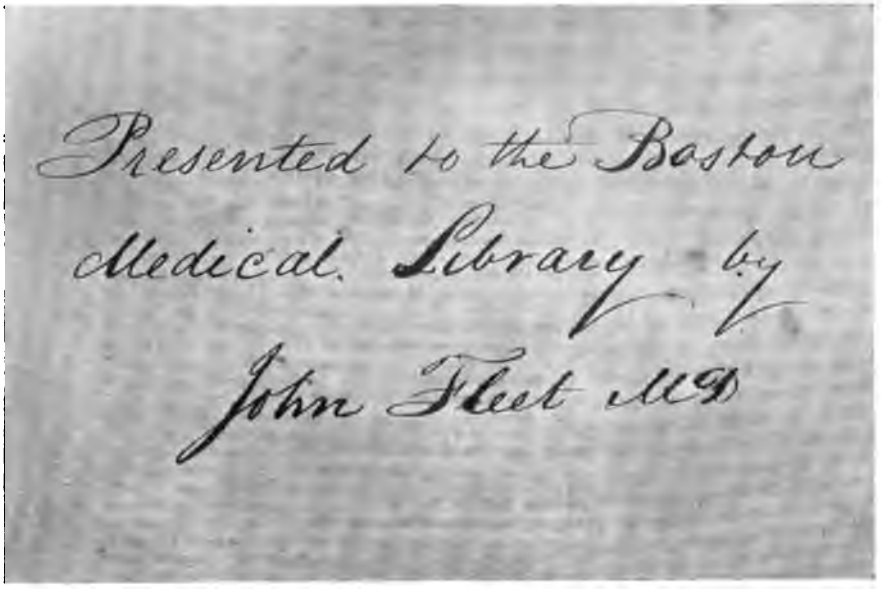
JOHN C. WARREN
ASA BULLARD
JOHN G. COFFIN
} *Committee*"

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III — (*a*) BOOK PLATE

A copy of the book plate found in many of the books received from the Athenaeum



III — (*b*) AUTOGRAPH INSCRIPTION

Several of the books have autograph inscriptions, such as is found in the presentation copy of John Fleet, the first librarian

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Next comes a catalogue of 485 volumes, without date, perhaps 1811, pp. 20, in which the books are arranged alphabetically and the position of each book on the shelf indicated by a number. Astley Cooper on Hernia is No. 1, Cheselden's Anatomy of the Bones is No. 2, and Albinus Explicat. Tabul. Anat. Eustach. No. 3. We have also a catalogue of this issue with manuscript additions of books added since the publication of the catalogue.

There is a Catalogue of Books, with Rules and Regulations, pp. 46, printed by Munroe & Francis, No. 4 Cornhill, Boston, 1816, containing 1076 volumes and a few other titles, and also one of the same date with additions in manuscript, as well as one of the books arranged in numerical order, begun in 1816 and continued to 1823 in manuscript; 16 folios, 70 quartos, 669 octavos and 95 duodecimos, 850 titles.

The Catalogue of latest date is one of 1823, pp. 36, printed by J. H. A. Frost, Congress Street, Boston, which contains 1383 volumes. There are new Rules and Regulations at this time, dated October, 1823.

Every book must be returned one week at least before the annual meeting under penalty of one dollar. No book can be delivered to any person who has not the right to use the library, without a written order from the Proprietor on whose account it is taken; but a Professor may give a

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standing order to a medical student for not exceeding three months. The annual assessment must be paid within thirty days after it is demanded, or the right to use the Library is suspended till paid, and if not paid in one year, the Treasurer is to sell the share. Annual subscribers approved by the Trustees, on paying ten dollars are entitled to receive books from the Library in the same manner as Proprietors. New Proprietors must be approved by a majority of the Trustees, receive a certificate signed by the Treasurer and Secretary and sign obligation to conform to the Rules and Regulations.

I have spoken of the Boston Medical Library as the Second Social Library, and I think I am justified in this, because the notice in the *Columbian Centenel* of July 6, 1807, calls on the Proprietors of the "Second Social" Library in the Town of Boston, or the Boston Medical Library, to meet for business purposes on July 8, 1807. This notice is signed by John G. Coffin, Clerk, and we know that he was the Clerk or Secretary of the Medical Library at that time. The Proprietors of the Medical Library in their agreement with the Athenaeum sign as "Proprietors of the Second Social or Medical Library." These are, however, the only places in which I have found "Second Social" and "Medical Library" combined.

A copy of a Catalogue of a so-called Second Social Library has been preserved, dated 1808,

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which shows that the Library was at that time wholly general in character. This copy has many titles added in manuscript, suggesting that the Library had a considerable call for books. The title page is as follows:

"A Catalogue of Books in the Second Social Library in the Town of Boston, Printed at the Emerald Printing office, in No. 5 Court St., 1808, E. G. House, Printer," pp. 12.

The Boston Public Library has a second edition of this with a Supplement entitled: "Supplementary Catalogue of Books added to the Second Social Library from Jan. 1809 to May 1811," pp. 12. Both of these catalogues contain works of a general character and no medical books; whereas the catalogues of the Boston Medical Library published in 1808, 1811, 1816, and 1823 are entirely medical, all the officers and Proprietors of the Medical Library, of which we have quite a complete list from 1805 to 1826, are medical. In the Massachusetts Register and U. S. Calendar for 1814 the officers of the Second Social Library are given and they are not medical. In 1817 the Massachusetts Register gives, on the same page, the Second Social Library with its non-medical officers, and below it the Boston Medical Library with an entirely different set of officers. After this the Second Social disappears from the Register, but the Medical Library keeps on until its absorption by the Athenaeum. The

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non-medical library can hardly have been kept in the house of Dr. John Fleet in 1806 and 1807, nor is it likely that No. 49 Marlboro Street, a Medical School and doctors' offices, would have been an attractive spot for a general library. They were evidently two distinct libraries; the history of one we know from its birth to its demise, the other is shrouded in obscurity and what became of it I cannot say.

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II

Founding of Present Library — Rooms in Hamilton Place, 1875 to 1878

AFTER absorption by the Athenaeum, the Medical Library still preserved some of its identity, and is often mentioned in the Boston Directories of that time as the "Boston Medical Library in the Athenaeum, Pearl Street;" but it gradually ceased to claim attention and became merely a part of the Athenaeum without distinctive name.

The principal medical libraries that continued their independent existence after 1826 were the Boylston Medical Library in Harvard College, Cambridge, established in 1802, the Library of the Massachusetts Medical College in Boston, and that of the Massachusetts Medical Society, also in Boston. Almost no additions had been made to these somnolent collections and they were of no particular service to the medical profession. The following letter from Librarian Harris indicates the torpid condition of the medical library of that period, — a few old books, never added to, their use not encouraged, and no particular

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interest shown in them on the part of the authorities:

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF HARVARD COLLEGE

Dec. 9, 1851

Dear Sir:

The Boylston Medical Library contains about 1000 volumes, mostly of the ancient standard authors. I am not aware that any additions have been made to it for twenty years or more.

The persons entitled to borrow these books are — "The Professors of the Medical School, students attending the Medical Lectures in Boston and in Cambridge, during the same, and all members of the Medical Society of Mass., who reside within ten miles of the University, under the same rules and regulations as are made and provided for the use of the Public Library," that is, the Library of Harvard College.

The Public Library also contains a collection of medical, anatomical and surgical works, — say about 1,000 volumes — many of them the same as in the Boylston Library, and others different — but very few published within the present century. As a matter of courtesy, I have loaned these books, also, to the same persons as are entitled to borrow from the Boylston Medical Library.

Yours truly,

THADDEUS WILLIAM HARRIS

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FOUNDING OF THE PRESENT LIBRARY

In 1852 the Boston Public Library was founded, and to it were given, after a time, many private collections belonging to physicians who knew of no other library that had a staff of cataloguers and assistants, who could arrange and classify books and journals, and to which the general public had access.

The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for September 14, 1871, has the following note: "The members of the Chicago Medical Society are making earnest efforts to found a public medical library. When will our local societies in New England do the same thing? This Journal has an exchange list of more than fifty medical journals on file at the office, which may be consulted by medical men."

The Massachusetts Medical Society in 1870 had rooms at No. 36 Temple Place, Boston, and was the possessor of a library of a limited number of volumes, principally Proceedings and Transactions of Societies, which were evidently not thought of any great value by the members of the Society, if we may judge from the report of the Librarian, Dr. J. C. White, June 6, 1871, in which it was stated that "no one had consulted the books the past year."

In the spring of 1872 Drs. G. C. Shattuck and R. M. Hodges were appointed a committee to examine the library, and reported at the Annual Meeting, June 4, 1872, recommending that "the

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Publications of the Society be sold to members at twenty cents a volume and all other books be given to the City Library or to any other public library willing to take charge of them." This report was accepted and the committee instructed to carry out the recommendations.

In accordance with this vote, the library was given to the City of Boston at a time when all hope that the medical profession would have a library of its own was entirely relinquished. The reports of the Boston Public Library, 1873–74, state that 1687 volumes, 9201 pamphlets and 16 broadsides were received from the Society.[1]

This disposal of the library of the Massachusetts Medical Society was not satisfactory to Dr. H. I. Bowditch and some others, and efforts were made to regain possession of it. On February 4, 1874, on motion by Dr. Bowditch, it was voted to take the safe-keeping of the Proceedings, Publications and Records of the Society from the Committee on the Library and refer it to a special committee. This was done, and Dr. Bowditch was made chairman of this committee, Dr. Morrill Wyman and Dr. Francis Minot being the other members. They endeavored to see what could be done about the books which had been given to the Public Library; but the transfer had already been

[1] A catalogue of Books belonging to the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1822 contains a list of 425 books; thus in 1873, fifty years later, there had been an increase of only about 1200 volumes, or twenty-five a year.

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entered on the records of the Library, and only such books could be disposed of as were duplicates of those already on the shelves.

Now appears on the scene the one who had more to do with the founding and developing of the Boston Medical Library than all the rest of the profession, Dr. James R. Chadwick, born November 2, 1844, and, consequently, only about thirty years old at this time. He graduated at Harvard in 1865 and then traveled in Europe for two years. While in Vienna in June, 1867, dining at the Riedhof with some of his medical American friends, he deplored his aimless and useless life and asked whether any one could tell him what line of work he could take up with any prospect of success. One of the number replied, "Jim, study medicine; you would make a good doctor." This suggestion was greeted with explosive laughter as being too absurd for serious consideration.

This seemingly ridiculous advice apparently appealed to him, he returned to Boston and entered the Harvard Medical School the following autumn, taking his degree of M.D. in 1871. He sailed for Europe in May, 1871, and, after spending two years studying in various clinics, returned to Boston in July, 1873, and began practice. In 1874 he was made a member of the Boston Society for Medical Observation. Soon after starting practice he began to talk about the need of a medical library, but at first the leaders of the

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profession turned a deaf ear. He went to the Public Library several times and saw Mr. Justin Winsor, the Librarian, but it was too late to get the Massachusetts Medical Society books as a nucleus for a Medical Library, and he had to content himself with carrying away packages of duplicates which Mr. Winsor turned over to him.

Very probably Dr. Bowditch's disapproval of giving the Massachusetts Medical Society books to the Public Library brought him into close and sympathetic relations with Dr. Chadwick, who was anxious to see active measures taken to establish an independent medical library for the whole profession.

Dr. Bowditch was sixty-six years old at this time; he had led a very active and varied life, was the first president of the Observation Society, founded in 1846, which was primarily for the younger physicians, and he had always taken an especial interest in the literary needs of medical men and others. The Boston Almanacs, 1850 to 1859, refer to the "Bowditch Library (a free library) at No. 8 Otis Place," now Winthrop Square. This was the residence of Dr. H. I. Bowditch, and the library was that of his father, Nathaniel Bowditch, the mathematician, which Dr. Bowditch allowed the public to use.

In 1878 at the Dedication of the Medical Library Building in Boylston Place, he said that he had known of two efforts being made to estab-

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IV — Dr. JAMES READ CHADWICK

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lish a Medical Library: the first resulted in the formation of the journal and pamphlet collection of the Observation Society;[1] the other was in connection with the Suffolk District Medical Society, which appointed a committee to consider the formation of a library, whose efforts, however, failed, and on the ground that the Public Library of the City could do more for the purchase and care of medical books than the profession could do for itself. He considered this a great mistake, and now saw that what was needed was the young, scientific zeal of the present day to inaugurate the great work. (If there is anything that the ordinary Public Library does not want to undertake, it is a medical department. J. W. F.)

The needed zeal was furnished in large measure by Dr. Chadwick, only thirty years of age in 1874, who studied the field thoroughly to see what material might be available for a new library. The result of his investigations was given in his first Annual Report as Librarian in 1876 under the title of "Medical Libraries in Boston." The Boston Athenaeum had about 5000 medical volumes, and added an average of forty volumes a year, including bound journals. Its sets of periodicals were not numerous and were incomplete, and being a private corporation, were available to few. At the Public Library

[1] See page 84.

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the medical books, nearly 10,000 in number, were not up-to-date and personal access to the shelves was not permitted. The Treadwell Library at the Massachusetts General Hospital is hardly to be taken into account, as the books were for officers of the hospital only. The Harvard University Library in Cambridge contained 3800 medical books, a department founded by Ward Nicholas Boylston in 1802, to which about 500 volumes had recently been added by Dr. B. Joy Jeffries. This collection contained no modern books and almost no periodicals. The Library of the Harvard Medical School (the former Massachusetts Medical College) consisted almost entirely of old text-books and journals, of some use to students perhaps, but not to be taken into consideration as material for a live medical library.

The Medical Library situation in 1874 was not adapted to the needs of the young, active, and progressive members of the profession; the books were not modern, the periodicals very incomplete, foreign publications few in number, the libraries scattered and many not accessible, — certainly there was need for a radical change. Now was an opportunity to see what could be done to bring about an improvement in the situation.

We are fortunate in having the original records, in the handwriting of Dr. Chadwick, of the first two meetings which were held at the office of

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Dr. H. I. Bowditch in 1874 at which the present Boston Medical Library was conceived. They had been preserved by Mrs. Julian Codman, Dr. Chadwick's daughter, who has kindly sent them to me.

ORIGINAL RECORDS OF THE MEETINGS AT DR. H. I. BOWDITCH'S OFFICE

On Tuesday, December 21, 1874, six gentlemen, Drs. H. I. Bowditch, S. A. Green, R. T. Edes, Thomas Dwight, F. I. Knight, and J. R. Chadwick, met at the office of Dr. Bowditch, 113 Boylston St., for the purpose of taking measures to secure the speedy establishment of a Medical Library in the City of Boston. The meeting was organized by the election of Dr. Green as Chairman and Dr. Chadwick as Secretary. Those who had called the meeting then pointed out the urgent need of such an institution, referred to the magnificent collections of books in other cities and expressed the opinion that we ought to have, and could have, a Medical Library in Boston if proper steps were taken to obtain it.

The efforts that had been made for two or three years past in the Observation Society, looking to the establishment of a library and reading room in connection with that Society, were alluded to, and a conviction expressed by several of those

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present that a separate Association, whose sole aim and object should be the collection and preservation of books, would insure our having the best Library in the end.

After a very brief discussion these views were acquiesced in by all the gentlemen present; but, as the comparative advantages of one plan or the other could not, and ought not to be determined without due reflection, as the co-operation and contributions of the various societies, notably of the Observation Society, were essential to the success of the project, it was unanimously voted to postpone all action until the sentiments of the Societies and their members had been sounded.

Dr. Dwight and the Secretary were then appointed a committee to confer with the officers and members of the Medical Societies and secure, if possible, their sanction and assistance.

Adjourned to Tuesday, December 28, 1874.

JAMES R. CHADWICK, M.D.

The second meeting of the gentlemen interested in promoting the establishment of a medical library and reading room in the city, took place on Tuesday, December 28, 1874. Nineteen gentlemen were present, Dr. S. A. Green in the chair, Dr. Chadwick Secretary. The Records of the last meeting were read and accepted.

The two schemes which had been discussed at

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the previous meeting were then brought forward by their respective advocates. One plan was to have a library of periodical literature only, to be formed from the collection of journals now in possession of the Observation Society, and to remain the property of that Society for the use of its members and possibly of other subscribers.

The other scheme, in the interest of which the meeting had been called, had in view the formation of a permanent medical library, not of periodicals alone, but also of books of reference. For this purpose it was proposed to form an Association, the sole aim of whose existence should be the collection and preservation of books, pamphlets, journals, etc., and making them accessible at all times for purposes of study.

All fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and perhaps of the Academy of Dental Science and Pharmaceutical Society, should be eligible for membership. In this way it was hoped that between one and two hundred subscribers might be obtained whereby a larger sum of money would be secured for library purposes and the advantages of the library be extended without restrictions to a much larger circle of readers. As the collection of journals belonging to the Observation Society were of great value, it was hoped that the Society would recognize the advantages claimed for the independent

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organization and vote to deposit its books in the Association rooms.

A free expression of opinion was then called for:

Drs. H. I. Bowditch, F. I. Knight, H. P. Bowditch, F. Minot, R. T. Edes, C. J. Blake, C. P. Putnam, C. E. Stedman, A. H. Nichols, and J. R. Chadwick pronounced themselves as unequivocally in favor of a separate organization.

Drs. W. L. Richardson, E. Wigglesworth, J. C. Warren, R. H. Fitz, F. W. Draper, and E. J. Forster were quite as decidedly in favor of the Observation Society scheme. Dr. T. Dwight was less positive in his opinion, but on the whole sided with the latter party. Dr. J. O. Green would favor the Observation scheme, if he could see any means by which a body of Library members could be connected with the Society without introducing an element of discord. He should favor the separate association unless that objection to the other plan could be removed. Dr. S. A. Green expressed no opinion.

Meeting adjourned at 5 P.M. to January 12, 1875, in order to allow of mature deliberation before any action should be taken.

JAMES R. CHADWICK,
Secretary

I have found no account of a meeting in January or subsequently until the meeting which was

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called for August 20, 1875. There were undoubtedly meetings for discussion and for elaborating the details to be presented when the Association was organizing. A Circular was prepared and sent out as a call for a general meeting; to this one hundred favorable replies were received and twenty-three physicians were present on August 20 at No. 36 Temple Place, the rooms of the Massachusetts Medical Society. This was in the second story of the building where the Provident Institution for Savings now is. The rooms were used also by the Medical Observation and Medical Improvement Societies.

COPY OF THE CIRCULAR CALLING FOR A MEETING TO FORM A MEDICAL LIBRARY

Whereas, The need has long been felt among the members of the Medical Profession in this vicinity, of an opportunity to consult, at will, the Standard Medical Works and the files of current Medical Periodicals, it has been thought that the size of the Profession is now such as to warrant the formation of a Medical Library Association, to meet the above want.

Several large collections of books have already been placed at our disposal, and many periodicals, now taken by clubs and individuals, will be transferred to this Association for binding and

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preservation. As the Library is intended especially for reference, it will not be allowable to take any books except duplicates from the rooms. It is proposed to keep the rooms open throughout the day and evening, during which time a competent person will be in attendance.

A meeting of those who respond to this circular will be called in the course of the month to adopt a Constitution and elect the necessary officers.

Two rooms in the basement of a house in Hamilton Place (opposite Park Street Church), most admirably adapted to the purposes of the Library, may now be had on very favorable terms; one of these will be reserved for the purposes of study, and the other, in which will be displayed the recent numbers of Periodical Literature, will be made a place of reunion for the members.

In order that these rooms may be secured, an immediate response to this appeal is asked.

The proposed annual assessment is Ten Dollars.

F. I. KNIGHT, M.D., 113 *Boylston St.*
EDWARD WIGGLESWORTH, M.D., 108 *Boylston St.*
W. L. RICHARDSON, M.D., 76 *Boylston St.*
J. R. CHADWICK, M.D., *Cor. Clarendon & Marlboro' Sts.*

BOSTON, *August* 1, 1875

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FOUNDING OF THE PRESENT LIBRARY

The circular was written by Dr. Chadwick, as is shown by his statement to that effect written by him on the one which is now in the possession of the Medical Library. The rooms were not in the basement, but on the ground floor of the house.

COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD

"*Meeting in the Massachusetts Medical Society Rooms, 36 Temple Place, Boston, August 20th,* 1875

"The following gentlemen were present: Drs. W. L. Richardson, F. I. Knight, J. B. Moran, Edward Wigglesworth, D. F. Lincoln, C. J. Blake, J. B. Ayer, A. L. Norris, W. E. Boardman, O. F. Wadsworth, J. H. McCollom, A. Lawrence Mason, J. R. Chadwick, R. H. Fitz, M. W. Weld, Jas. A. McDonough, Gustavus Hay, J. G. Stanton, R. L. Hodgdon, Daniel Harwood, C. P. Putnam, F. W. Draper, C. E. Inches, 23 in all.

"The meeting was called to order by Dr. F. I. Knight, who asked for nominations for Chairman and Secretary pro tem. Dr. Richardson was elected Chairman. Dr. Moran was nominated as Secretary, but declined, and Dr. Inches was elected.

"Dr. Knight at the request of the Chairman stated the purpose of the meeting. He said that

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the time had come to collect in one place, where they might easily be referred to, medical works and libraries, — and not have them distributed among General Libraries, as was the case now. In furtherance of this idea, he with several other gentlemen had issued circulars, to which already 100 favorable responses had been received. He stated that the late Dr. Gordon's library was at our disposal, and made an appeal to the Profession for aid and comfort.

"Dr. Chadwick spoke to the same effect, read a letter from David Clapp and Sons, in which they offer a certain number of bound volumes of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* at 30 cts. a Vol., and give unbound volumes of the same in case their first offer is accepted.

"On motion of Dr. Chadwick, a committee of three was appointed by the Chair to draw up a Constitution and By-laws; Drs. Chadwick, Blake and Weld were appointed. After a short interval Dr. Chadwick, for the committee, reported a Constitution[1] and By-laws, which after considerable discussion and amendment were, on motion of Dr. Wadsworth, adopted. Dr. R. H. Fitz moved the appointment of a committee of three to nominate officers and the following were appointed: Drs. Fitz, Hodgdon and McCollom, who reported the following for permanent officers of the Society:

[1] See pages 212 *et seq.*

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FOUNDING OF THE PRESENT LIBRARY

President	O. W. Holmes
Vice-President	C. E. Buckingham
Secretary	O. F. Wadsworth
Treasurer	A. L. Mason
Librarian	J. R. Chadwick

Executive Committee

J. R. Chadwick, *ex. off.*, *Chairman*, W. L. Richardson, J. C. Warren, F. I. Knight, E. Wigglesworth, Jr.

Committee on Admissions

O. F. Wadsworth, *ex. off.*, *Chairman*

J. C. White	H. P. Bowditch
T. Dwight	J. J. Putnam

and they were elected.

"A final appeal was made by Dr. Chadwick for books and furniture, concluding with the statement that the rooms would probably be open in September next in Hamilton Place, and inviting the gentlemen to inspect them now.

Adjourned.

"The Constitution and By-laws as passed were given to the Permanent Secretary.

Signed,

C. E. Inches, *Sec'y pro tem.*"

In the autumn of 1875 two rooms on the ground floor of No. 5 Hamilton Place, now a part of the

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Phillips Building, were hired, fitted up, and opened to members on Monday, October 18th, with Dr. E. H. Brigham[1] in charge as Assistant Librarian. When he went out to his meals his place was taken by a medical student. His salary from the Library at first was only twenty-five dollars a month, and to supplement this he was allowed to combine his duties as Assistant Librarian with those as Clerk for the State Board of Health, working for the Library in the forenoon and for the Board of Health in the afternoon in the Library Rooms. The hours were from nine to seven, afterward to six only, when it was apparent that the earlier hour was sufficient, as far as the needs of the Library were concerned.

Each room was about eighteen feet square and had a door opening from the corridor leading from the street. The front room had one large window and a door with a large glass, which was always kept closed, where Dr. Brigham sat at a writing table formerly belonging to Dr. James Jackson. In the centre was a large round table now (1918) in the catalogue room in the present building.

There were also a large easy-chair and twelve black walnut cane-seated chairs, of which a few are still in use. On shelves in a small alcove were kept the subscription journals. The rear room

[1] Dr. Brigham had been in the Civil War and later was a clerk for the Mass. State Board of Health through the influence of Dr. H. I. Bowditch, who afterward secured for him the position in the Medical Library.

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had rows of shelves about the walls and in the centre with a capacity of twenty-five hundred or more volumes. This room had large windows looking out on to a deep yard, so that there was plenty of light. Overhead were the quiet rooms of the Episcopal Church Association.

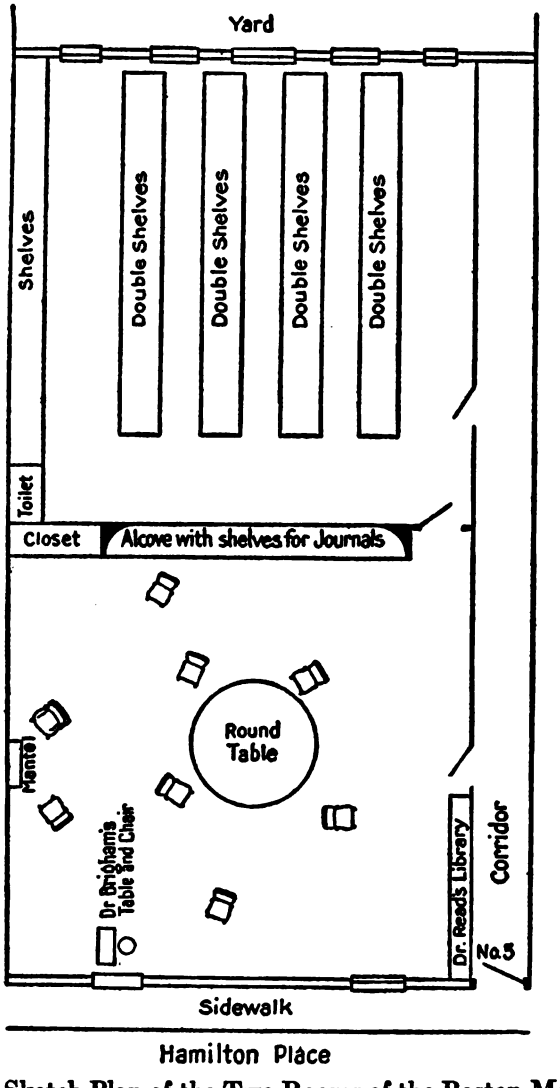
Hamilton Place was then a very peaceful spot and near the business section. There was no entrance to Music Hall from it at that time. On both sides were old, well-built dwelling houses in a stage of transition to business purposes. It was closed at the end, and people from out of town used to hitch their horses here while on shopping bent.

According to Dr. Brigham, the Library was not much used at first, as really there was but little material at hand, and in fact until the Index Medicus appeared there was only a very moderate use of periodicals. The older men with the aid of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* and *Braithwaite*, a résumé of English medical literature, had all that they thought was necessary. As the latter journal had been distributed by the Massachusetts Medical Society for many years, it was looked on as a great authority. A small group of men had studied in Paris, and they gave to the Library some of the best modern books in French and some periodicals. German was read by few; these were the young men, most of whom were specialists.

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The financial horizon was overcast, times were hard, and the majority of the profession considered the establishment of the Library a great risk, that it could not possibly succeed and was bound to collapse, as the experiment had been tried before and failed; and, consequently, they gave a very half-hearted support. The original promoters, however, were in earnest and worked with increasing zeal, spurred on by Dr. Chadwick, the indefatigable, the irrepressible, who urged, persuaded, overcame opposition and begged for money and books. Some of the former came in and more of the latter. But it was particularly for journals that he was on the lookout and he was always laying stress on their value to a library. With this in mind he secured the exchanges of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, which added largely to the current file. He also secured for a nominal price over two hundred volumes of bound exchanges. He made raids on the closets and attics of his professional friends and brought away what he thought might complete the imperfect files at the library. He secured as a loan the bound volumes of the periodicals of the Society for Medical Observation, which later, on our removal to Boylston Place, were given to the library. This was a valuable collection, nearly a complete file of *Virchow's Archiv.*, *Archives générales de médecine*, *British Medical Journal and Lancet*, *American Journal*

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V — Sketch Plan of the Two Rooms of the Boston Medical Library Association at No. 5 Hamilton Place, October 18, 1875 to December, 1878

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VI—HAMILTON PLACE AND PARK STREET CHURCH IN 1885 OR 1886

THE rooms at No. 5 in the foreground on the right, vacated by the Library in 1878, are here shown occupied by a dealer in Art Needle Work. The high building occupied by Hewins & Hollis at the time the picture was taken was built after the Medical Library moved away.

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VI — HAMILTON PLACE AND PARK STREET CHURCH
IN 1885 OR 1886

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of Medical Sciences, Journal of Anatomy, Allgemeine Wiener medizinsche Zeitung. His particular forte was in finding out the little known or forgotten collections of deceased physicians or of Societies. He unearthed a library given by Dr. Alley to the Boston Dispensary, which had slumbered for years and never been used; this he secured; also the fine collection on obstetrics made by the late Dr. William Read when he was writing his prize essay on "Placenta Previa" for the Massachusetts Medical Society. It contained about everything on the subject in all languages down to 1860. This was kept in a bookcase by itself in the front room (See Plate V).

That all this enthusiastic work which has resulted in such inestimable benefit to the profession was not approved of at the time by most of the older physicians is easily understood. Some of them felt that Dr. Chadwick was going to turn everything upside down. He seemed, in their eyes, an irrepressible youngster with more zeal than discretion. The thought of leaving the old rooms of the Society for Medical Improvement was very disturbing to Dr. J. B. S. Jackson, Dr. Storer and men of that set. They did not understand what a fine work he was starting in to do. Some objection was made by members of the Observation Society. They feared that the taking over of their library as a nucleus for a new library would mean the extinction of their Society.

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If we look at the floor plan of the two small rooms in Hamilton Place [Plate V], one of them entirely taken up with bookcases, it seems almost incredible that these old societies should have been willing to turn over their books to the charge of an enthusiastic young man and his friends, none of whom had had any library experience.

It is evident that considerable missionary work was necessary in order to reconcile the older physicians to the new venture. In the *Medical Register for New England* for 1877 there is the following announcement of the Library:

"The Boston Medical Library Association at 5 Hamilton Place has 5,000 vols. and 4,000 pamphlets. The Rooms offer every advantage for reading, reference, rest and meeting of members for professional or social intercourse and are freely offered to visitors not resident in the city."

Dr. Brown was a very devoted friend of the Library from the first and tried thus to advertise its advantages.

The first Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the Library Rooms, No. 5 Hamilton Place, at 4 P.M., on October 3, 1876, Dr. O. W. Holmes in the chair and twenty-six members present. The Librarian, Dr. Chadwick, read his first Annual Report, entitled "The Medical Libraries of Boston," to which I have already referred. This was afterward printed and distributed. The following officers were elected: —

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FOUNDING OF THE PRESENT LIBRARY

President	Dr. O. W. Holmes
Vice-President	Dr. C. E. Buckingham
Secretary	Dr. O. F. Wadsworth
Treasurer	Dr. A. L. Mason
Librarian	Dr. J. R. Chadwick

Executive Committee

Dr. F. I. Knight Dr. E. Wigglesworth

Committee on Admissions

Dr. J. C. White	Dr. H. P. Bowditch
Dr. T. Dwight	Dr. J. J. Putnam

The annual assessment was reduced from ten dollars to six.

A circular dated November 16, 1876, was sent out, as follows:

"The Boston Medical Library Association invites the Regular Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacists and other scientific men of the city and suburbs, to promote the objects and share the advantages of the Institution by enrolling themselves as members. The annual assessment is Six Dollars. Donations of money, Books, Journals, Pamphlets, etc., are earnestly solicited. The Library has a large number of duplicates for sale or exchange.

5 Hamilton Place, Boston,
Nov. 16, 1876"

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An appreciative visitor at this time was Dr. William Osler, who came down from Montreal to look up various subjects, which he said he could do much better at the Boston Library than in Montreal. He has often spoken to me of the assistance which he received in Boston in those early days.

On October 2, 1877, the second Annual Meeting was held at the Library Rooms, at 4.15 P.M., Dr. Holmes presiding and twenty members present. Dr. Chadwick read the Librarian's Report giving the statistics for the year. In 1876 there were 2639 volumes in the general library. In 1877 there were 3821 volumes of journals and 2645 others, a total of 4488 in 1876 and 6466 volumes in 1877 in the whole library, an increase of 1978 volumes. This Report was printed (but wrongly dated as October 9) and distributed.

An Act of Incorporation, which had been granted to fourteen Incorporators on May 7, 1877, was accepted by the members of the Library at the Annual Meeting, Oct. 2, 1877, and the title was made "Boston Medical Library Association." The word "Association" was dropped in 1896. The purpose of the corporation was given as "to establish and maintain a Library of Medicine and the allied sciences." The list of Incorporators is as follows: O. W. Holmes, Henry I. Bowditch, James R. Chadwick, A. L. Mason, Charles P. Putnam, H. P. Bowditch, O. F. Wads-

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worth, Edward Wigglesworth, W. L. Richardson, F. I. Knight, J. Collins Warren, R. H. Fitz, James C. White, Thomas Dwight.

The Constitution and By-laws adopted at this time in place of those adopted in 1875[1] gave the Executive Committee of seven entire charge of the Library, and they were to choose one of their own number President of the Association. The Librarian was not a member of the Committee, but was often invited to the meetings. The Assistant Librarian was appointed by the Committee and was at first the only official that received a salary. Members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Massachusetts Dental Society, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, and such other persons as were approved by the Committee on Admission were eligible to admission to the Association. Names of candidates were to be proposed in writing by two members and sent to the Clerk, who posted the names in the rooms of the Association for at least four weeks. They were then acted on by the Committee on Admissions. The Annual Meeting of the Association was to be the first Tuesday in October.

On October 8, 1877, the Executive Committee VOTED: That books printed for five years, except reference books, may be taken out by members for a week, two volumes at a time. The Clerk was authorized to make formal application to

[1] See page 212.

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Dr. H. R. Storer, Secretary of the Gynaecological Society of Boston, for the gift of their library, which was granted on February 9, 1878, as a deposit. It was also VOTED: That it is expedient to proceed at once to raise the sum of $15,000 for the purchase and alteration of a suitable building for the purposes of the Association; and on March 23, 1878, the house No. 19 Boylston Place was bought for $13,000. Drs. C. P. Putnam and F. I. Knight were appointed a building committee and Mr. Henry Van Brunt was chosen as architect.

The sketch of the Hamilton Place rooms [Plate V] shows that they were not adapted to hold the books and journals which came in as the result of the infusion of young blood into the library situation. The former medical libraries of Boston had grown smaller rather than larger as they grew older, but here was a live institution, not a dead one locked up in narrow bookcases, and new quarters were needed.

The following circular dated February 25, 1878, was sent out as an appeal for funds for a new building. It was written entirely by Dr. Chadwick:

"*5 Hamilton Place*, BOSTON
Feb. 25, 1878

"The time has come when the rooms thus far occupied by the Boston Medical Library Association no longer meet its requirements. The bookshelves are fully occupied; several hundred

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volumes, recently given by Dr. G. Hayward, L. B. Russell and others, are of necessity piled upon the floor; the library of 800 volumes just received by the will of Dr. E. H. Clarke has been stored elsewhere; the large collection of books lately given by Dr. G. C. Shattuck still awaits removal from his house; finally, the Gynaecological Society of Boston two months ago voted unanimously that its extensive library be placed in our keeping, which charge cannot be assumed until we occupy larger quarters. Beside the demand for additional shelf-room for the reference library, a corresponding increase is needed to render it feasible to institute a circulating library from the duplicates in our possession. These are numbered by thousands, and include complete files of all the principal American and English periodicals; if rendered accessible these volumes would be of immediate utility to the Profession. A scheme for extending the privileges of this circulating library to every physician in the State is at present under consideration, and will be perfectly practicable if this appeal elicits hearty support.[1]

"In addition to the need of greater accommodation for books, there is a like demand on the part of the readers, the reading-room being often uncomfortably crowded. There have been applications for membership from medical students

[1] I have not been able to learn that anything resulted from this proposed scheme. — J. W. F.

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which have had to be rejected, owing chiefly to the above consideration. The suggestion has been made that Harvard University may be disposed to enter into an agreement with our Association, whereby, in return for certain considerations, it may secure for the whole body of students in the Medical and Dental Departments, the free use of our library and rooms.

"It should be appreciated that, in little more than two years, our library has grown to number over 8000 volumes and 5000 pamphlets, thus outstripping nearly all the medical libraries of the country. It is at present exceeded only by the National Medical Library (40,000 vols.) in Washington; the College of Physicians (19,000), and Pennsylvania Hospital (12,500) in Philadelphia; the New York Hospital (10,000); and the Public Library of Boston (10,000).

"The history of this Association, as set forth in the Annual Reports of the Librarian, and in the above statement, gives ample evidence that a Medical Library, allowing free access to its bookshelves and providing a comfortable reading-room well stocked with current periodicals, was needed in the city; and that the management of the present one has been such as to secure the unanimous support of the Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Profession of Boston.

"With this record of its past achievements, the Association now appeals for aid to meet its present

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wants, and to provide for its immediate entrance upon a wider sphere of prosperity and usefulness.

"Instead of hiring larger rooms than the present ones, with a proportionate increase in the annual rent, besides having to defray the cost of new book-shelves, carpets and other articles of furniture, the Association now seeks to obtain a permanent abode. This is deemed desirable and feasible for the reasons already stated; but more especially because, owing to the temporary depression in the value of real estate, an opportunity presents of purchasing the third house on the easterly side of Boylston Place, adjoining that occupied by the Boston Library Association. The house is 27 feet wide; 40 feet deep, with a yard 25 feet deep; it consists of 3 stories besides a basement and attic; is in perfect repair; and is fully exposed to the morning sun in the rear and to the afternoon sun in the front. The rooms are so arranged as to be available for library purposes with scarcely any alterations. After a long search this locality has been found to be the only one, which offers for a reasonable price, the prime requisites of central position, freedom from noise, with plenty of sunshine and light. The propinquity of the Public Library will render its collection of medical books easily accessible to the members of the Association.

"In seeking to acquire possession of this house, the Association has a still greater object in view;

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that of ultimately establishing a permanent home for all the societies devoted to the study of medicine and the kindred sciences in this city. There will be, without any change, at least two rooms large enough for the meetings of small societies, at which not more than thirty or forty members are present. Drawings have been made by an architect, showing a plan whereby a hall can be constructed on the lower floor of this house, which will be one-third larger than the hall now occupied in Temple Place, and at the same time thoroughly ventilated, and lighted by a skylight and windows. In this the three large medical societies can be accommodated should they be inclined to make the change.

"If five thousand dollars at least is subscribed, this scheme can be carried out, the residue of the purchase money being left in the form of a mortgage of which the interest will represent no more than the annual rent of the two rooms now occupied by the Association, to say nothing of the outlay for additional rooms. All sums received for the use of the rooms for the meetings of societies can be applied to the payment of this interest, to the gradual liquidation of the mortgage, or to the purchase of new books as soon as published.

'To recapitulate, the special aims of this appeal are:

"1*st*, To obtain quarters, rendered practically fireproof, for the present urgent requirements of the reference library and for its future development.

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"*2d*, To establish a circulating library in conjunction with the former.

"*3d*, To extend the privileges of both to the Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Professions of the whole State, and to the whole body of students in the Medical and Dental Departments of Harvard University, and in the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

"*4th*, To concentrate under one roof all the interests of the Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Professions, by having rooms for the meetings of all their societies.

"*5th*, To retain within the Profession the large sums now paid annually to outside parties for the rent of rooms by the several societies.

"In view of the necessity for immediate action on the part of the Library, and the exceptional opportunity now existing, it is hoped that a special effort will be made by the Medical Profession to collect the sum required, more than one fourth of which has been promised without solicitation.

O. W. HOLMES, *President:*
E. WIGGLESWORTH
F. I. KNIGHT
W. L. RICHARDSON
J. C. WARREN
C. P. PUTNAM

Executive Committee of the Boston Medical Library Association"

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III

No. 19 Boylston Place, 1878 to 1884 — Dedication — Directory for Nurses

THE house which was bought, No. 19 Boylston Place, had been the home in 1866 of Dr. Samuel G. Howe, the philanthropist, and his wife Julia Ward Howe, but had recently been used as a boarding house. This was a quiet situation, often damp because lower than Boylston Street, a cheerless cul-de-sac, of rather unsavory reputation later on, near Boylston and Tremont Streets, the busy shopping districts. Many physicians had moved from Beacon Hill, Tremont Street and the South End and were opening offices in the Back Bay, of which Boylston Street was the important thoroughfare; consequently physicians and their patients passing from the residential district of the Back Bay to the shopping or business section, would have to pass the entrance of Boylston Place. At No. 18, the former home of J. L. Motley, the Historian, was the Boston Library Society, a very quiet neighbor,

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VII — BOYLSTON PLACE ABOUT 1890

Boylston Place about 1890, looking toward Boylston Street. The Medical Library, No. 19, is the third bay window from the right

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much more so than Hopkinson's Private School for Boys at No. 20.

The Howe house was a brick dwelling twenty-seven feet wide and sixty feet deep including the yard, of three stories with an attic and basement. There was a yard in the rear which was half filled with a one-story ell containing the kitchen. To adapt the house for library use and provide a hall for meetings, the first story and basement were thrown into one space, the kitchen demolished and the yard covered over with a structure with a skylight in the roof. At the right of the front door was a platform, the floor of the old reception room, and from this about eight broad steps, nearly the width of the hall and each one deep enough to hold a chair, led down to the floor of the meeting hall, formerly the basement. A passage way down these steps left room for four chairs on each step on either side of the aisle, so that at meetings not only the chairs on the floor of the hall proper were used but also those on the broad steps, — seating about one hundred and twenty or more persons.

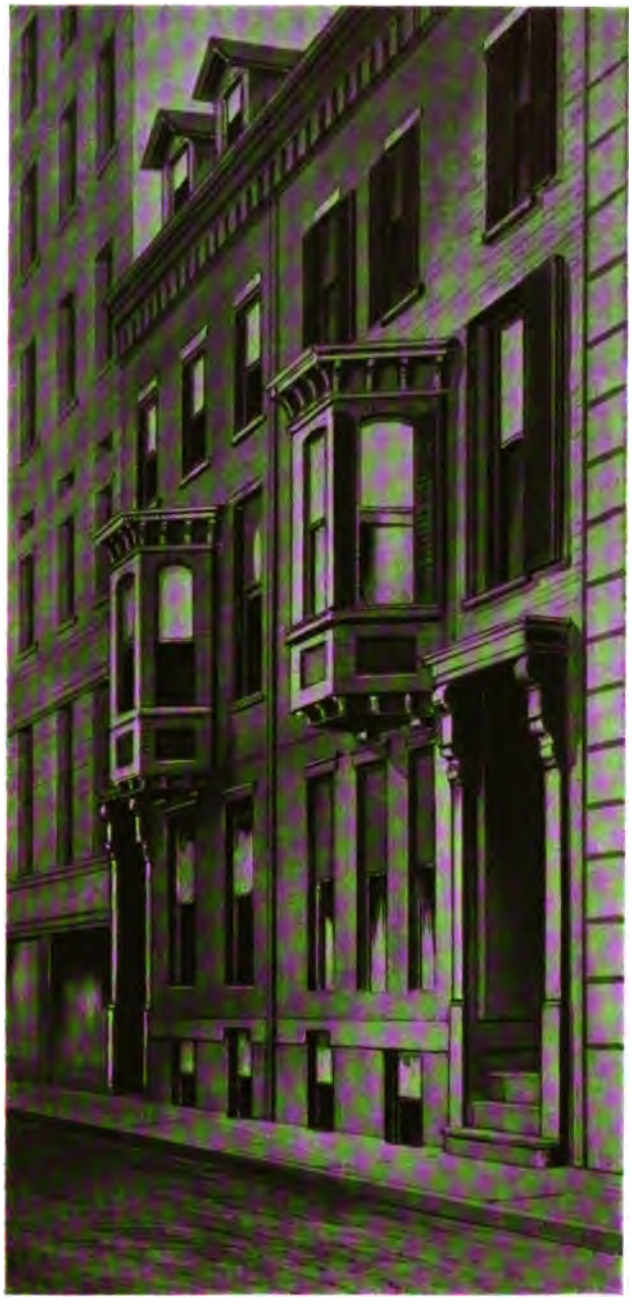
Around the walls of the hall were built book-shelves, the upper ones being served by a gallery reached by a circular staircase leading from the floor of the hall up to the reading-rooms in the second story. Hanging from the gallery railing were later a number of portraits which had been given to the library.

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VIII — BOYLSTON PLACE, 1903

THE house on the left with the bay window was the Medical Library. The picture was taken in 1903, two years after the Library moved to the Fenway. The other house was the home of the Boston Library Society, which moved to 114 Newbury Street soon after the picture was taken. Both of these houses were demolished and are now a part of the tall Walker building, a portion of which is seen on the extreme left.

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VIII — Nos. 18 and 19 BOYLSTON PLACE, 1903

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A very important feature of the hall was its system of heating and ventilation, which had received most serious consideration from Mr. Van Brunt, the architect, Dr. Cowles, an expert in hospital construction and heating, and Dr. J. S. Billings, who was considered to know more about the subject than any one else. It was a very difficult matter to ventilate and heat a high studded basement room, lighted entirely by artificial light (gas), with the furnace on the level with the floor of the hall and the reading-rooms directly over the hall. Transverse rows of steam-pipes were under the steps leading down to the hall, enclosed in galvanized iron boxes with covers which opened in front by a series of levers operated by handles. Behind the Chairman's seat was a compartment with flues, and overhead was a glass skylight with gas lights above it. Dr. Brigham always had great difficulty in regulating the covers of the steam-pipe boxes under the steps, and the general effect was, hot air around the head and arctic breezes about the legs of the audience. The system seemed to try to make hot air from the steam-pipes go down to the floor where it was needed and stay there. In 1884 the Annual Report says that the system had proved "defective," and it was overhauled and modified with some slight improvement.

The moving of the books from Hamilton Place was managed by Dr. Chadwick and a number of

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IX — MEETING HALL, NO. 19 BOYLSTON PLACE

THIS shows the hall as it looked in April, 1900. The steps leading down to it are not shown but began about five feet back of the row shown in the foreground. The spiral staircase leading to the reading rooms is shown on the left, near the next to last row of chairs. Behind the chairman's desk is seen the compartment in which were the flues connected with the system of ventilation. Above the skylight were gas-jets for lighting the hall and also for causing an upward current of air. On the left of the picture near the angle of the gallery and under the bust of Dr. J. C. Warren, is a tall, square cabinet in which was kept a skeleton used by readers of papers; it is now in the lecturer's room leading out of Sprague Hall. A swinging blackboard is on the opposite side of the room. A number of portraits hang from the gallery, and a bust of Dr. Waterhouse is in the angle of the gallery at the right.

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IX — MEETING HALL NO. 19 BOYLSTON PLACE

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the young physicians who were more or less inoculated with enthusiasm by him. They were arranged on shelves around the large hall where the medical meetings were held, and were thus within easy reach of those attending the meetings, especially the early comers, who often returned the books to wrong places or left them about in the hall. In order to prevent this, a large netting, weighted at the bottom with an iron rod to keep it in place, was fastened in front of the books which were easily reached. This had the desired effect, but it was a great nuisance to Dr. Brigham and others, who had frequent need to go to the shelves, and after nearly a year of service it was removed.

From the front door a narrow, steep, straight flight of stairs led up to the rooms of the second floor. In front, the width of the house, originally the parlor of Dr. and Mrs. Howe, was the reading room with a large oak table extending the length of the room, the gift of Dr. Henry I. Bowditch. A part of this table is now in the Periodical Room of the present Library Building, and around it were the black walnut chairs from Hamilton Place. At one end of the room was a fireplace and a marble mantel, and at the opposite end were closets for folios and shelves above for books. There were also many pamphlet boxes at the end of the room and elsewhere. The front wall had a bay window looking out on to Boylston

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X — THE READING ROOM AT NO. 19 BOYLSTON PLACE IN 1900

THE Assistant Librarian, Dr. E. H. Brigham, is seated at the table given by Dr. Bowditch, at the farther side of which are some of the black walnut chairs from Hamilton Place. Mr. James F. Ballard, second assistant, stands in the corner near the revolving bookcase. On the shelves are books and periodical volumes. In the closets below are folios and material too large for the shelves. On the right are pamphlet boxes with their white labels. The door leads to the hallway and stairs where the telephone hangs. The bay window looking toward Boylston Place is not seen, but is on the left. The door leading to the rear room is on the right of the pamph et boxes, but is not in the picture. The flash-light used by the photographer gives a black and white look to the room so that the notices, labels and picture mats are the most conspicuous objects. The room certainly never looked as "spotty" as this, but had rather a cozy appearance.

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X—THE READING ROOM AT NO. 19 BOYLSTON PLACE IN 1900

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Place and there were two comfortable easy chairs, the gift of Dr. C. P. Putnam. The wood-work of the room was dark green, the floor painted green, and there was a dull-colored rug under the table and chairs.

The rear room, leading out of this by a large door, was much smaller than the front room. Three sides were fitted with shelves for periodicals and books, and in the rear were two windows. The round table from Hamilton Place was in the centre of the room, and near the window Dr. Brigham had his desk, until his place was taken by the Registrar of the Directory for Nurses, when he moved his desk into the front room near the window.

In the third story, one room was fitted up for the Library of the American Statistical Association, which contained 3500 volumes and 12,000 pamphlets, many of them relating to vital statistics and insanity. The Association gave up this room in 1886, finding it too small. There were also two or three small rooms for the cataloguer and others; the top story was occupied by the Assistant Librarian and his family.

The Annual Meeting, October 1, 1878, was adjourned to meet when the new hall should be ready, and Dr. Chadwick was given charge of the formalities of the Dedication.

The following was the programme:

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XI—REAR ROOM AT NO. 19 BOYLSTON PLACE IN 1900

MR. BALLARD is at his desk. The round table from Hamilton Place in the right foreground has on it the card catalogue in drawers. The periodicals on file were in compartments on the two sides of the room not shown. The door leading to the large front room was directly opposite the window behind Mr. Ballard. The Registrar in charge of the Directory for Nurses sat near the other window. Outlined against the shade of this window is seen Dr. Chadwick's "Want Book," with its leather handles. On the cabinet to the left of the round table are two large books, one for entering periodicals and the other for "accessions." The crowded condition of the building is indicated by the piles of journals, the lack of room for the necessary furniture, and the general appearance of being what the country people call "all cluttered up."

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XI — REAR ROOM AT NO. 19 BOYLSTON PLACE IN 1900

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NO. 19 BOYLSTON PLACE

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Report of the Building Committee

Address by the President

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes

Remarks by

Dr. J. S. Billings, U. S. A.

Librarian of the National Medical Library in Washington

Prof. Justin Winsor

Librarian of Harvard University

Dr. George H. Lyman

President of the Massachusetts Medical Society

Charles W. Eliot, LL.D.

President of Harvard College

Dr. David P. Smith *of Springfield*

Vice-President of the Massachusetts Medical Society

Dr. Calvin Ellis

Dean of the Harvard Medical School

Dr. Henry I. Bowditch

Vice-President of the Medical Library Association; Ex-President of the American Medical Association

A large loan collection of Medical Portraits will be exhibited in the Hall at the meeting, and, for the benefit of the Profession, ladies, and others, throughout the rest of the week.

These new quarters were dedicated December 3, 1878, with about one hundred and fifty in the audience. The principal address, and a most brilliant one, was made by the President, Dr. O. W. Holmes. He spoke of the Medical Libraries of Boston, laid great stress on the importance of indexes, and referred to the recently published

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Specimen Fasciculus of the Index Catalogue of the Surgeon-General's Library. But the great charm of his address was the learned and witty description of the old medical classics, of many of which he possessed copies, which later he gave to the Library. Following this, there were remarks by Dr. J. S. Billings, Prof. Justin Winsor, President Eliot and others. Prof. Winsor, formerly Librarian of the Boston Public Library, suggested a union of the Medical part of that Library with the Boston Medical Library, and as the two buildings were very near each other, he said that a passage might be made to connect them. He also advised co-operation with the Library of the Harvard Medical School. (Proposals were made at various times to unite the Boston Medical Library with the Public Library and also to unite with the Medical School, but nothing came of it.)[1] A pleasing feature of the exercises was the music, sung by a double quartette made up from members of the Library under the direction of Dr. S. W. Langmaid.

In connection with the Dedication there was a Loan Collection of seventy-two portraits of deceased Massachusetts physicians brought together for the occasion, hung on the front of the gallery around the large hall and on the walls of the reading room up stairs. Smibert was represented by one canvas, Washington Allston by one and

[1] See pages 60, 90 and 91.

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Stuart by six. The faces were those of many of the best known physicians of Boston and New England, and it was considered remarkable that so complete, extensive, and excellent a collection could have been got together in such a short time. In looking over a lot of Dr. Chadwick's letters last summer, I soon saw that to him was due the credit of this much appreciated exhibition. Many of these portraits were later given to the Library and are now in the rooms and halls of the present building. A catalogue was prepared giving the name of physician, residence, date of birth and death, age at time of portrait, name of artist, name and residence of owner. This was printed in 1881 together with the account of the Dedication. Much interest was taken in this collection, and it remained open to the public the rest of the week. A portrait of Cotton Tufts, one of the founders of the Massachusetts Medical Society and its President from 1787 to 1795, was presented by Dr. Wm. T. Brigham, December 7, 1878.

Notices were sent out for a meeting in Library Hall, or Medical Hall, on Wednesday evening December 11, at which Dr. G. H. Lyman gave a short history of "The Origin of the Massachusetts Medical Society;" and Rev. G. H. Ellis of "The Physicians of the Revolution."

On December 13, Dr. Edward Reynolds spoke on "Some of the Early Physicians;" and Dr. H. A. Martin gave an address on "Boylston and

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LOAN COLLECTION OF MEDICAL PORTRAITS

Name	Residence	Birth	Death		Age	Artist	Owner	
Thomas Bulfinch	Boston	1694	1757	Oil Painting	..	Smibert	Mrs. T. H. Swett	Boston
Cotton Tufts	Weymouth	1736	1815	"	73	Benjamin Greenleaf	Boston Med. Lib'y Ass'n	
Samuel Danforth	Boston	1740	1827	"	..	G. Stuart	The Misses Danforth	Boston
William Aspinwall	Brookline	1743	1823	"	70	G. Stuart in 1814	William Aspinwall, Esq.	Brookline
Nathaniel Coffin	Portland, Me.	1744	1826	"	66	G. Stuart	Mrs. George Derby	Boston
John Jeffries	Boston	1744	1819	"	70	Greenwood	John Jeffries, Esq.	Boston
Thomas Thaxter	Hingham	1751	1813	Water Color	..			
Lewis Le Prilette	Roxbury	1751	1805	Oil Painiing	..	Not known	John B. Anthony, Esq.	Providence, R. I.
Gov. John Brooks	Medford	1752	1825	"	..	G. Stuart	Francis B. Brooks, Esq.	Medford
James Thacher	Plymouth	1754	1844	"	..	Miss Stuart	Mrs. James T. Hodge	
John Homans	Boston	1752	1800	"	38	From miniature in 1790. Not known	C. D. Homans, M.D.	Boston
John Warren	Boston	1753	1815	"	..			
Amos Holbrook	Milton	1754	1842	"	80	Hayward of Boston	Henry J. Gardner, Esq.	Boston
Benjamin Waterhouse	Cambridge	1754	1846	"	27	Not known	Col. Henry Ware	Cambridge
Benjamin Waterhouse	Cambridge	1754	1846	"	79	Not known	Col. Henry Ware	Cambridge
Abijah Cheever	Saugus	1759	1846	"	70	Cole	D. W. Cheever, M.D.	Boston
John Bartlett	Roxbury	1760	1844	"	..	Stuart	Mrs. Theodore D. Bush	Boston
Austin Flint	Leicester	1760	1850	"	71	(Painted in 1831.) Unknown.	Austin Flint, M.D.	New York
William Spooner	Boston	1760	1836	"	24	Unknown — Painted in Edinburgh	Mrs. A. E. Spooner	Milton
B. Lynde Oliver	Salem	1760	1835	"	65	Frothingham	F. E. Oliver, M.D.	Boston
Nathan Hayward	Roxbury	1761	1846	"	72	Harding in 1835		
William Ingalls	Boston	1769	1851	"	65	J. Pope	Mrs. C. H. Stedman	Boston
Nathaniel Miller	Franklin	1770	1850	"	76	J. S. Lincoln, Prov.	John B. Anthony, Esq.	Providence, R. I.
Nathan Smith	New Haven, Conn.	1772	1829	"	55	Prof. Morse (Inventor of Telegraph)	D. P. Smith, M.D.	Springfield
Matthias Spaulding	Amherst, N. H.	1769	1865	"	33	Allston, at Studio of Benj. West, Lond., 1802	Edward Spaulding, M.D.	Nashua, N. H.
Benjamin Shurtleff	Boston	1774	1845	"	68	Alexander in 1843	H. G. Shurtleff, Esq.	Roxbury
Robert Thaxter	Dorchester	1777	1852	Water Color	75	Cheney		
John Dixwell	Boston	1777	1834	Oil Painting	46	F. Alexander in 1823	Mrs. J. J. Dixwell	Jamaica Plain
John C. Warren	Boston	1778	1856	Crayon	..			
Rufus Wyman	Cambridge	1778	1843	Photograph	..		Boston Med. Lib'y Ass'n	
James Jackson	Boston	1778	1867	Oil Painting	62	Gambadelli in 1839	C. P. and J. J. Putnam, M.D.	Boston
Peter G. Robbins	Roxbury	1779	1852	"	..		Rev. Chandler Robbins	Boston
James Porter	Rutland, Vt.	1780	1854	Photograph	70		C. B. Porter, M.D.	Boston

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John Green	Worcester	1784–1865	Photograph.	78	Gambadelli in 1839	John G. Heywood, Esq.	Worcester
George C. Shattuck	Boston	1784–1854	Oil Painting	43	Stuart	G. C. Shattuck, M.D.	Boston
Henry H. Childs	Pittsfield	1784–1848	"	75	M. Wight	Elias Merwin, Esq.	Boston
John B. Brown	Boston	1785–1862	"	46	Chester Harding	Buckminster Brown, M.D.	Boston
Walter Channing	Boston	1786–1876	"	70	Ames	Miss G. E. Channing	Boston
Joseph H. Flint	Leicester	1786–1846	"	60	Chester Harding in 1846	Austin Flint, M.D.	New York
Edward Flint	Leicester	1789–	"	40		J. S. Flint, M.D.	Roxbury
George Hayward	Boston	1790–1843	"	45	Francis Alexander	George Hayward, M.D.	Jamaica Plain
Solomon D. Townsend	Boston	1793–1869	"	51	Francis Alexander in 1844	Mrs. T. D. Townsend	Boston
Abel L. Pearson	Salem	1794–1859	Painting	58	Chas. Osgood of Salem, in 1853	Mr. C. L. Pearson	Boston
John Homans	Boston	1793–1868	"	68	Wight in 1862	John Homans, M.D.	Boston
John Jeffries	Boston	1796–1876	"	55	Otis	B. Joy Jeffries, M.D.	Boston
Samuel Morrill	Boston	1796–1872	Crayon	60	Miss Eliza Adams	F. Gordon Morrill, M.D.	Boston
John P. Spooner	Milton	1797–1878	Photograph.	74		J. W. Spooner, M.D.	Hingham
Josiah Bartlett	Concord	1797–1878	Painting	72	Ives of Detroit, Mich.	Miss Martha Bartlett	Concord
Winslow Lewis	Boston	1799–1875	"	52	Abel Nichols	Mrs. Winslow Lewis	Boston
Anson Hooker	Cambridge	1799–1869	"	53	Wm. Willard	Mrs. Anson Hooker	Cambridge
Chas. F. Chaplin	Cambridge	1800–1857	"	..		Mrs. C. F. Chaplin	Cambridge
Horatio Adams	Waltham	1801–1861	Photograph.	58		B. F. D. Adams, M.D.	Waltham
Chas. H. Stedman	Boston	1804–1866	"	60		C. E. Stedman, M.D.	Dorchester
Henry C. Perkins	Newburyport	1804–1873	Crayon	60	Carl E. Meinerth	Mrs. H. C. Perkins	Newburyport
Charles Mifflin	Boston	1805–1875	Photograph.	66		Mrs. Chas. Mifflin	Boston
M. S. Perry	Boston	1805–1859	Painting	..		John G. Perry, M.D.	New York
Luther V. Bell	Somerville	1806–1862	"	50	Wight	McLean Asylum	Somerville
James M. Smith	Springfield	1806–1853	"	..	Hardinge of Mass.	D. P. Smith, M.D.	Springfield
Chas. B. Putnam	Boston	1806–1875	"	68	E. T. Billings	C. P. Putnam	Boston
Nath'l B. Shurtleff	Boston	1810–1874	"	32	Alexander in 1843	H. G. Shurtleff	Roxbury
Nath'l B. Shurtleff	Boston	1810–1874	"	58	Photograph	H. G. Shurtleff	Roxbury
Stephen Salisbury	Brookline	1812–1875	Crayon	60	Mrs. J. S. Woolsey	Mrs. Stephen Salisbury	Brookline
Jeffries Wyman	Cambridge	1814–1874	Photograph.	..		Boston Med. Lib'y Ass'n	
Samuel Parkman	Boston	1816–1854	Crayon	36	Cheney in 1852	Mrs. Samuel Parkman	Boston
George Derby	Boston	1819–1874	Photograph.	54		Mrs. George Derby	Boston
Edward H. Clarke	Boston	1820–1877	Painting	32		Mrs. R. H. Fitz	Boston
John E. Tyler	Boston	1820–1878	"	54	Porter	McLean Asylum	Somerville
C. E. Buckingham	Boston	1822–1876	Photograph.	48		Mrs. C. E. Buckingham	Boston
Nathan Hayward	Roxbury	1830–1866	"	35			
Francis C. Ropes	Boston	1838–1869	Crayon	32	S. W. Rowse in 1869	John C. Ropes, Esq.	Boston
John S. C. Greene	Boston	1845–1872	"	25	Mrs. Helen Merriman	Mrs. J. S. C. Greene	Boston
Charles A. Cheever	Saugus	1793–1852	"	58	A. Conant	D. W. Cheever, M.D.	Boston

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Waterhouse, the Introducers and Champions of Inoculation and Vaccination in America."

Ladies and other non-members were invited to these meetings, and the Loan Exhibition of Portraits, which was proving of great interest, was continued another week.

The Medical Improvement, Medical Observation, and Suffolk District Societies and the Councillors of the Massachusetts Medical Society were invited to hold their first meetings after the Dedication in the hall of the Library, and they accepted.

A check list of the medical journals and serials taken by the libraries of Boston and vicinity was published in December, 1878. Dr. Chadwick was instrumental in the preparation of this most useful document, which shows at a glance where the various medical serials are to be found, and also helps to prevent unnecessary duplication.

It was voted in December, 1878, that Dr. Brigham should be permitted to sell vaccine points at the Library. These came from the Beaugency stock of Dr. H. A. Martin, of Roxbury, and were considered to be the best and also absolutely fresh, being delivered by Dr. Martin's agent directly to the library. This business was continued for many years and was a source of satisfaction to the doctors.

In May, 1879, the Librarian was authorized to invite nineteen members of the Library to act

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as curators, each to be in charge of a section of medicine in which he was especially interested. This was expected to increase and stimulate the interest in the library and thus attract to it books old and new, on all medical subjects; but nothing of value resulted from it. In a vague, general way a certain temporary zeal is manifested, but nothing practical could be expected.

In 1877 Dr. J. C. Warren resigned from the Executive Committee; his place was taken by Dr. F. C. Shattuck, and Dr. C. P. Putnam was added to the Committee. To these two is due the credit of starting, in November, 1879, and maintaining the Directory for Nurses, believed to be the first of its kind ever established, copied later by many libraries. The objects were, to register nurses who were competent and could be recommended, and to furnish a headquarters where those wishing nurses could be furnished with their addresses and qualifications. For this service the nurse paid a fee and also the family which secured the nurse. Whatever money remained after paying the expenses of running the Directory was turned over to the Library. This was at a time when the latter had no funds and had to rely on the dues of its members, and for many years this financial help from the Directory was most welcome. The Committee had the assistance of three public-spirited and experienced ladies, Mrs. M. R. Towne, Miss M. A. Wales, and

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Miss A. P. Dixwell, whose self-sacrificing and unwearied labors contributed largely to the success of the Directory.

There was no telephone in the Library at first, and in October, 1879, a request was made that one be installed. This was referred to the Executive Committee, who thought one a necessity for the Directory for Nurses, which was to be established the following month. The telephone was just coming into use and the Library had one of the early instruments, number 113. I have always felt that this was a fortunate time to start this new enterprise, as in later years when every one has a telephone, Registration Bureaus and Nurses Clubs have sprung up on every hand, and I do not think that they can be profitable except for the nurses who get employment.

The Directory was successful from the start; it had high standards, was well managed and had more or less of a monopoly, added to the fact that the community had confidence in the doctors in charge. There were 412 nurses registered in 1881, and the monthly average of nurses furnished from January to November, 1881, was seventy-four. At first Dr. Brigham was able to look after the Directory in addition to his library work, but the increase in the demand for nurses made it necessary, in 1892, to have some one take his place as Registrar; and later there were two Registrars who took entire charge under the

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supervision of the Library Committee. In 1886 the Treasurer reported that the net amount received from the Directory was more than that received from current dues of members or the rent of rooms in the library building.

At the end of the first year in Hamilton Place there were one hundred and thirty-three members of the Library, each paying ten dollars assessment. The money thus obtained was enough to pay the current expenses and half the cost of furnishing the rooms. The rest of the indebtedness was defrayed by voluntary contributions of many friends. The second year was entered upon free from debt and the annual assessment was reduced to six dollars, in order to extend the facilities of the library by attracting more members. The end of the year showed receipts insufficient to meet expenses, but unsolicited contributions enabled all obligations to be paid. After removal to Boylston Place, with its greatly increased expenses, this simple method of keeping out of debt had to be given up. It was then, in 1879, that the Directory for Nurses came to the relief of the financial situation and was of the greatest assistance to the Library for many years. After an existence of about thirty years, the receipts from the Directory began to fall off, owing to the increasing competition from the large number of nurses' directories, or registries, and on December 31, 1914, the Directory closed its doors after an

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honorable career of thirty-five years, during all of which time Dr. C. P. Putnam had been at its head.

In 1880 the services of Mrs. E. J. Collins were secured as cataloguer, at first, for a part of her time only, the expense being paid by Dr. Calvin Ellis. She had had a thorough training under Mr. Justin Winsor in the Boston Public Library, which at that time had about 11,000 medical volumes, and her work had fortunately been with these books, many of which had come from the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1873 and were transferred to the Medical Library in 1905. Her expert knowledge, extreme conscientiousness, and her interest in the growth of the library all combined to make her services of the greatest value. She still retains (1918) the position of head of the Catalogue Department, which she has held for thirty-eight years. She has paid special attention to the development of our scheme of classification and has contributed much to whatever merit it may be considered to have.

The Massachusetts Medical Society, although having given its books to the Public Library, was apparently satisfied to turn to the Medical Library as a place for its meetings and its general headquarters; and in February, 1879, it was VOTED: That the Treasurer of the Society be authorized to conclude arrangements with the Boston Medical Library Association by which Councillors of the

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Massachusetts Medical Society together with its standing Committees and its Board of Health may hold their meetings at the rooms of the Library Association during a term of ten years, upon the payment of an annual sum not to exceed one hundred and fifty dollars. And in June, 1885, on recommendation of the Committee on Library, through Dr. Z. B. Adams, who stated that the Library of the Massachusetts Medical Society consisted mainly of Reports of various medical societies, it was VOTED: — That that property and all similar publications hereafter received be given to the Boston Medical Library on condition that they be accessible to members of the Society, and the sum of fifty dollars was appropriated for binding the pamphlets donated. The Medical Library has continued to be the headquarters of the Medical Society; the meetings of the Councillors, of the various committees and of the Suffolk District Society (the local County Society) are all held in the Library. Dr. Brigham, Assistant Librarian for thirty-four years, and since 1910 Library Curator, is Librarian of the Medical Society and receives whatever publications or exchanges are sent to the Society.

The Medical Observation Society had taken a large share in starting the Medical Library in 1875, and after the Association had moved into its new building in Boylston Place, was the first society to hold its meeting in the new quarters,

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on December 16, 1878, when it was voted to rent the hall for their meetings for a year at a rental of one hundred and twenty-five dollars. They continued to meet there until their union with the Medical Improvement Society in 1896, since when the combined societies have always met in the Library.

The Observation Society[1] in 1848 made an attempt to establish a library of journals, and, on motion of Dr. H. I. Bowditch, it was voted to raise seventy-five dollars by subscription to provide medical and scientific periodicals. As an outcome of this, nine journals were subscribed for, increased later to twenty-five or thirty. These journals were bound and in 1876 deposited in the Medical Library. At the end of each year after this, the Society turned over to the Library the periodicals which had been received during the year and paid for the binding of them. The Medical Improvement Society continued the custom after 1896, and although it has recently given up subscribing to journals for circulation among its members, it has paid the Library for subscribing to certain journals and has also given a sum of money each year for binding.

In 1879 Hon. Robert C. Winthrop gave to the library a most valuable and interesting lot of autograph letters consisting of, first, a document of nine pages labelled "Receipts to cure various

[1] See page 37.

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Disorders For my worthy friend Mr. Wintrop," and signed by Edward Stafford, London May 6th, 1643. This is the first medical document known to have come to Massachusetts. After giving many prescriptions and directions for the guidance of John Winthrop, first Governor of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, in relieving the physical ailments of his subjects, the writer closes with the following quaint and pious bit of advice, which will hardly be endorsed by the present generation of physicians:

"*Nota benè.* No man can with a good conscience take a fee or reward before ye partie receive benefit apparent, and then he is not to demand anything but what God shall putt into the heart of the partie to give him. And he is not to refuse any thing that shall be given to him for it commes from God.

"A man is not to neglect that partie to whom he hath once administered, but to visit him at least once a day, and to medle with no more, than he can well attend. In so doing he shall discharge a good conscience before God and Man."

There are also twenty-seven letters addressed to John Winthrop (son of the above), Governor of Connecticut, between 1651 and 1663 by various prominent settlers in all parts of New England, detailing their symptoms or those of their relatives for which they sought medical advice. That

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these appeals met with a speedy and full response is made evident by one of Governor Winthrop's replies in a four-page autograph letter setting forth at great length and with much display of learning the points of diagnosis, which he admits is very "dubisome to do," and the treatment recommended. The manuscript "Receipts" of Edward Stafford have been bound up with a reprint of the same with Annotations by Dr. O. W. Holmes, originally published in the first volume of the "Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society."

In October, 1881, the following circular was sent out in order to try to raise $15,000 for the purpose of canceling the debt of the Library. The financial situation and prospects of the Association are explained.

"BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
19 *Boylston Place, Boston, Mass.*
October, 1881

"Three years ago the Boston Medical Library Association appealed to the profession and public for pecuniary aid to enable it to purchase and fit up a house to contain its extensive library, and also a hall for the meeting of all the medical associations in the city. More than ten thousand dollars were then subscribed, the building bought and altered, leaving the association with a mortgage of eight thousand dollars and a floating debt

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of four thousand dollars; the latter has since been reduced to one thousand dollars, by further subscriptions by the profession and by the practice of the most rigid economy.

"The usefulness of the Institution has been so fully appreciated and endorsed by the profession, and the Directory for Nurses, established and carried on by the association, has proved such a boon to physicians, nurses, and especially the public, that the Executive Committee feel authorized to appeal for a new subscription of fifteen thousand dollars for the purpose of cancelling the entire debt, making some pressing and long-neglected alterations and repairs, and having a small fund for binding and for buying new books, as soon as issued.

"With this sum we feel that the Library Association will be established on so lasting a basis as to preclude the necessity of appeals for pecuniary assistance in the future.

"It is not necessary to dwell upon the value of libraries in general, but we would remind our patrons that the mass of medical literature is now so great as to be beyond the purchasing power of even the richest physicians, and yet the life and health of every individual in the community is in a large measure dependent upon a familiarity, on the part of the medical profession, with every advance in the science and practice of medicine.

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"To meet this pressing need more fully than has heretofore been possible with our limited resources, we hereby appeal to the profession and the public.

"Subscriptions may be sent to any of the undersigned.

O. W. Holmes, W. L. Richardson,
F. I. Knight, Edw. Wigglesworth,
O. F. Wadsworth, F. C. Shattuck,
Charles P. Putnam.
Executive Committee.

James R. Chadwick,
Librarian."

At about this time many notable donations and bequests were received, for it was now apparent that this new Library was destined to be the headquarters for medical literature and the medical profession of Boston. The library of Dr. E. H. Clarke, 800 vols., was a bequest under his will; that of Dr. John E. Tyler was given by his widow, and a large part of that of Dr. George C. Shattuck was a gift at the instance, and with the approval, of his sons. At the instigation of Dr. Henry A. Martin, the Roxbury Athenaeum gave its medical books. From the daughters of Dr. Samuel Wheeler Wyman of Newburyport was received his large and valuable library and also his portrait in oil, which is now in John Ware Hall. It was from one of these daughters,

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Miss Ellen Brewer Wyman, that the Library recently received a bequest of over $90,000 as a memorial to her father. From Drs. F. C. Shattuck and C. P. Putnam was received a fully equipped card catalogue case, with a capacity of 72,000 cards.

There were in 1881 over 10,000 volumes and 6,000 pamphlets in the library and 286 periodicals and transactions on file. These figures had increased in 1884 to 14,799 volumes, and 12,289 pamphlets. Several members of the library assisted in making cross-references to the catalogue, and Dr. F. H. Brown undertook the arrangement of the catalogues of medical schools, reports of hospitals and dispensaries, which are always difficult to keep in order. The contents of the library were nearly all collated and catalogued by 1884, and it would have been very smooth sailing if it had not been for the accessions. The library of the late Dr. Thomas B. Curtis was received by bequest, over five hundred volumes, and a large number of pamphlets and monographs, especially French. From Miss Lucy Ellis came the splendid library of 698 volumes, which belonged to her brother, the late Prof. Calvin Ellis; and from Mrs. A. B. Bancroft 279 volumes, the library of her late husband.

The Winthrop autograph letters seem to have set an example to others, who generously added to the collection. Dr. Edward Jarvis gave nearly

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two thousand autograph letters which he had received from prominent medical and scientific men during his professional life of sixty years. Some very interesting letters relating to the early use of surgical anaesthesia came from Dr. Benjamin Cushing and one hundred and twenty-eight letters from distinguished physicians were given by Hon. Nahum Capen, LL.D. Dr. Chadwick also contributed several hundred valuable letters.

In 1883 the question of admitting students of the Harvard Medical School to the privileges of the Library was brought up in a meeting of the Executive Committee, and Drs. Wadsworth and C. P. Putnam were appointed a Committee to confer with a Committee of the Medical School, Dr. Chadwick being requested to meet with the Committee. On November 28, the Committee reported that a conference had been had at which the proposition had been brought forward that the Library be moved to the Medical School Building. After a lengthy discussion it was unanimously VOTED: That after a very careful consideration of the expediency of moving the Library of the Boston Medical Library Association to the Building of the Harvard Medical School, the Executive Committee would express their decided conviction that such a transfer would be disadvantageous to the best interests of the Association. In 1884 an arrangement was made with the Faculty of the Harvard Medical School by which

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its collection of periodicals and a large part of its general library were given to the Medical Library in exchange for various books taken from the duplicates of the latter which were needed for the special libraries of the laboratories of the Medical School. The Dean of the Medical School requested the various Heads of Departments of the School to "select from the duplicate volumes of the Medical Library Association stored in the Museum at the Old Medical School Building a list of such as you consider will be of value in any of the libraries at the School." By this exchange the Medical Library was able to complete many files of the older periodicals, and add several hundred volumes of old standard works to its shelves.

We now begin to hear about the periodicals sent on from the Surgeon General's Library in Washington by Dr. Billings in exchange for similar material from Dr. Chadwick. This friendly interchange was of the greatest value to both and was kept up until the death of the latter. In the Boston Library there was always a "Washington" box ready to receive everything medical of a local nature such as might not otherwise come to the notice of the people in Washington. Hospital reports, circulars, obituary or biographical notices of physicians, these all went into the box which was sent to Washington as soon as filled; and Dr. Billings and Dr. Fletcher

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in the Surgeon General's Office were always eager to reciprocate. For twenty-five years Dr. Chadwick went to Washington once or twice a year to confer with Dr. Billings and look over the great Library with its store of duplicates. As a result of these trips, the Boston library was enriched with material that could never have been obtained otherwise.

From Dr. F. H. Shepherd, Librarian of the Medical Department of McGill University in Montreal, nearly one thousand numbers of journals were received. A fine portrait by Vinton of the late Dr. T. B. Curtis was given to the Library by its owner, the Society for Medical Improvement. From the same Society was received in 1881 the portrait of Dr. J. B. S. Jackson, now in Sprague Hall, and a plaster bust of Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse was presented by Dr. H. P. Bowditch. Mr. Thomas Windsor, formerly librarian of the Medical Library of Manchester, England, was instrumental in procuring for us at very low cost many Reports, Transactions and sets of periodicals. For many years he and Dr. Chadwick kept in close touch with each other, and on our shelves are to be found the benefits which resulted from this friendship.

In November, 1883, the Executive Committee instructed Dr. Brigham to notify, every first of July, through the columns of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, all members of the Suffolk

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District Medical Society that they may send to the Medical Library the times at which, during July, August, and September, they will be in the city to receive patients, their addresses and their office hours; and to publish in the *Advertiser* and *Transcript* the fact that the public can obtain such information by applying at the Medical Library. I am told nothing came of this.

Dr. W. L. Richardson, as a sub-committee of the Executive Committee, organized a Circulating Department, the object of which was to allow members to take out for home reading, at the rate of five cents a day, the new books bought for the Library. Fifty-one volumes were added to the Department between January, 1883, and October, 1884, and ninety-six volumes had been loaned to forty-two readers. This helped to pay a part of the cost of the books, but the scheme did not last long and was given up.

On November 25, 1884, there was a Special Meeting of the Association for the presentation of a bronze bust of the late Dr. J. Marion Sims to the Library. This was the gift of an anonymous donor through Dr. Chadwick, who made the presentation address, which was responded to by the President, Dr. O. W. Holmes. Additional remarks were made by Dr. G. H. Lyman, who referred to Dr. Sims' valuable contributions to gynecology and abdominal surgery. The bust is now on one of the bookcases in Holmes Hall.

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IV

No. 19 Boylston Place, 1884 to 1898 — Death of Dr. Holmes — Great Increase in Size of Library

IN October, 1886, the Tenth and Eleventh Annual Reports were printed and sent to the members. The Articles of Association and By-laws and Regulations for the use of Books were included in the printed Report for the first time, as was also the Report of the Treasurer, Dr. E. J. Forster. The library had increased in two years from 14,799 to 17,124 volumes, at the rate of 1163 volumes a year. Nearly 1500 volumes had been received from the Harvard Medical School and 700 volumes from Dr. J. Orne Green, the library of his late father. In concluding his report, the Librarian called attention to the crowded condition of the building and the need of fireproof quarters in a less shut-in locality. His success as a gatherer-in of books and journals was getting to be really embarrassing. Another fact to be taken into consideration was the increase in the work of the Directory; more space was required

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in which to interview nurses and patrons, and more of Dr. Brigham's time was taken from his library work, to say nothing of the disturbance caused to readers by the business of the nurses.

The great increase in the growth of medical libraries was referred to in the Librarian's Report for 1888. He said that in the past twenty-five years the volume of medical literature had increased at a prodigious rate, and the character of publications had changed from treatises, text-books, and monographs to periodicals, journals, and transactions of societies. The division of medical practice into specialties with their societies, sections, and special journals added greatly to the number of books and periodicals which contain the records of progress in all their departments. He considered the enormous growth of the Surgeon-General's Library with its Index Catalogue as a very potent factor in the growth of other libraries, and said "all must feel the influence of Dr. Billings, who has brought into existence a classified catalogue of all medical literature from the beginning of medicine to the present time, and has thus created a demand for what was formerly unknown and unknowable." During the year a gift of three hundred and seventeen Japanese medical books had been received from the University of Tokio, which came in return for a number of books and journals sent by the Librarian to Japan, at the request of Prof. E. S. Morse.

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After thirteen years as President of the Library, Dr. Holmes resigned in 1888 and was succeeded by Dr. Richard M. Hodges, who held the office for two years, being followed in 1890 by Dr. Francis Minot.

In 1889 Dr. Holmes presented his extremely valuable collection of 968 medical books to the Library. It was particularly rich in works on anatomy, fine plates and beautiful editions of the early medical writers. He had referred to them with great affection in his address at the Dedication of the Library. On January 23, 1889, the following letter was received from him:

"I have transferred my medical library to the Hall of the Boston Medical Library Association, asking the Association to accept it as a gift from the late President. As there was no provision for its reception, and as I liked the idea of keeping together the books which had been so long together, I have provided a new set of shelves in which they can be properly and conveniently arranged.

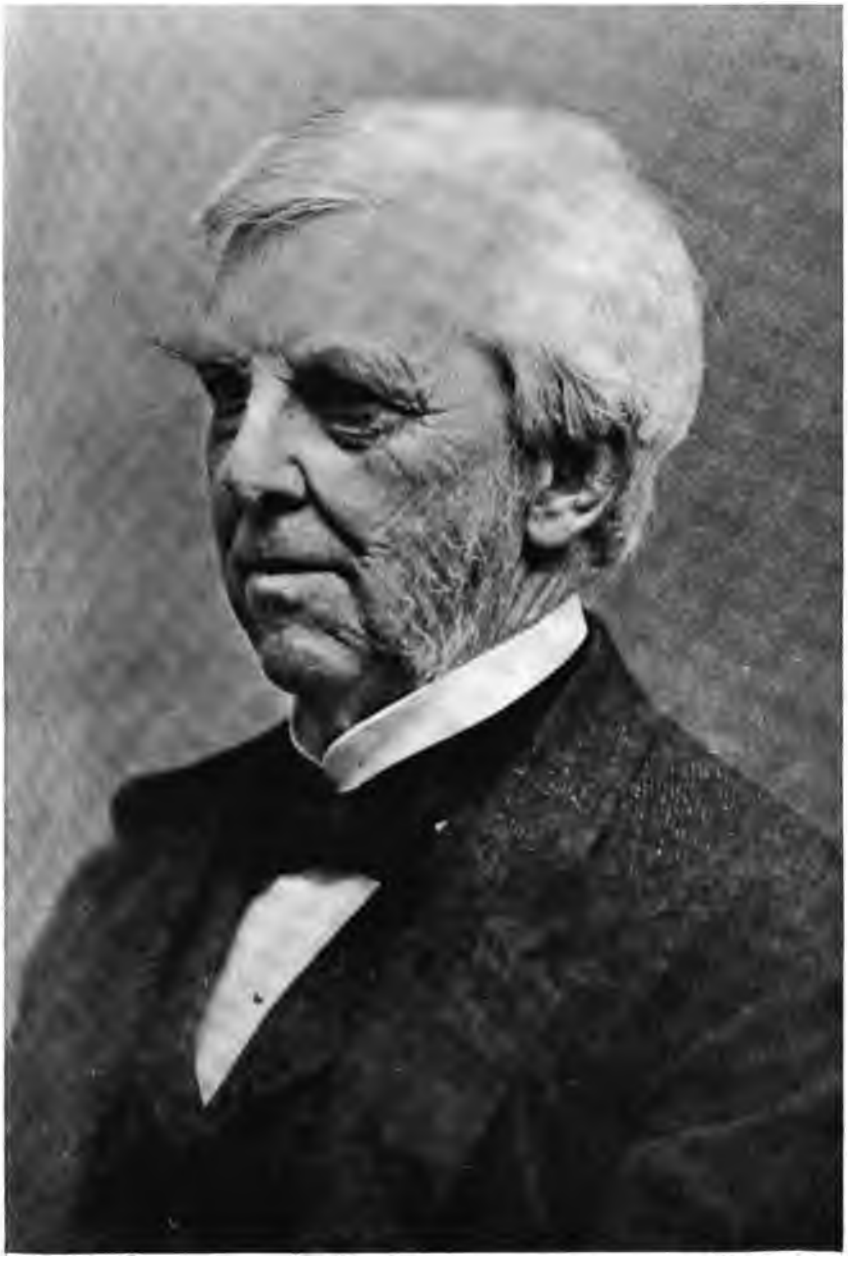
"Yours very truly,

"O. W. Holmes."

A Special Meeting of the Library was held January 29, 1889, to receive the books, Dr. R. M. Hodges presiding.

Dr. Holmes in presenting them described the

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XII — Dr. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

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manner and date of acquiring some of the volumes, and in his humorous way gave his opinion of the theories contained in many of these books once recognized as great authorities. The first book to be purchased was Bell's "Anatomy" and the last, "Elements of Pharmacy, Materia Medica and Therapeutics" by William Whitla, M.D. The oldest book in the collection is a black letter copy of Avicenna, 1490, and the latest was published in 1887.

It was moved by Dr. Chadwick that: "With grateful appreciation we accept the gift of his 968 volumes and shelves which contain them. We recognize in this act, as well as in his retaining the position of President of the Association for several years after he had relinquished all other association with the medical profession, that he has designated our institution as the one in whose existence he takes the greatest pride and in whose future he has the greatest confidence." Dr. D. W. Cheever, President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, seconded this in some most excellent remarks, and the motion was carried. Mr. Justin Winsor also spoke, as did Dr. George B. Shattuck, Editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.* Dr. C. J. Blake, in behalf of the contributors, said that Dr. Holmes had consented to sit for his portrait by Billings and the painting was already in progress. This was to be given to the Library on completion.

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This gift of Dr. Holmes brought forcibly to notice the urgent need of larger and safer quarters, and in 1888 the Association purchased a lot on the corner of St. Botolph and Garrison Streets, containing ten thousand square feet, which would have light on three sides and, although near a main thoroughfare, was expected to be a quiet situation. For this $15,000 was paid, thought to be a low price for so large a lot. The Library did not have to pay taxes on this land pending contemplated building, the Library itself not being subject to taxation.

Early in 1889 the friends of Dr. Henry I. Bowditch had his portrait painted by Mr. Billings and hung in the large meeting hall; and an excellent one of Dr. D. Humphreys Storer, by Vinton, paid for by money raised by Dr. E. G. Cutler, was presented by friends of the Library.

By the will of Mrs. Turner Sargent (1889), daughter of Dr. Holmes, the Library received notice of a bequest of $25,000 payable on the death of her father and her brother, Judge Holmes. This was the Association's first bequest. In 1890 Dr. Holmes presented to the Library a large folio of medical portraits, originally the property of Dr. Winslow Lewis, a very fine collection, often consulted by those looking for good material to illustrate medical papers; and the following year he gave a rare engraving of Vesalius, thought to be by Titian.

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GREAT INCREASE IN SIZE OF LIBRARY

Up to this time the dental section of the Library had been small and fragmentary and not at all satisfactory to the dentists. As a result of their exertions, great additions to this section were made which filled up the gaps. In the summer of 1889, the Library of the Harvard Dental School sent large numbers of books and journals, and the Faculty of the Dental School gave many periodicals from their private collections. This was followed by the Libraries of the American Academy of Dental Science, the New England Dental Society, and the Massachusetts Dental Society. Dr. Thomas Fillebrown was particularly active in inducing the owners of these books to transfer them to our care, and he continued his exertions until the section was in a most satisfactory condition. Dr. Chandler, Dean of the Dental Faculty, and Dr. Jacob Williams had also been instrumental in the same direction.

In 1891 a building for business purposes was begun in the rear of the Library only twenty feet away. Its height, eighty-five feet, was sufficient to cut off much of the light from our rear windows and to make artificial light necessary. This and the lack of room for books made it very desirable that a change of location should be made. The St. Botolph Street land was nearly paid for, but money for a building of sufficient size was not in sight. The house and land, 19 Boylston Place, were assessed for $11,300 and there was a building

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fund of $9,300, but a building to cover ten thousand square feet would cost at least $100,000. Times were generally hard, and as medical libraries are thought to be luxuries, like clubs, and not necessities, it never seemed to be the right time to start an active campaign for subscriptions. Not until 1901 was it possible to leave these inadequate quarters for the more commodious building in the Fenway. The valuable pictures were stored in the Art Museum and a great quantity of books and especially periodicals was sent to a barn in Jamaica Plain, owned by Dr. H. P. Bowditch, for storage. There was no "work room" in the Library where large masses of journals could be looked over, and, consequently, all this material had to be sent away, to remain, inaccessible, until it could be brought to the present building.

In 1892 a bequest of three hundred dollars was received under the will of Dr. H. I. Bowditch, the first money to be received by the Library under a will, the Mrs. Sargent bequest not being payable until after the demise of two relatives. The interest of this Bowditch Fund is used for the purchase of books on the heart and pulmonary diseases, in which Dr. Bowditch was interested. The clause of the will establishing this Bowditch Fund is as follows: — "The interest I wish to be used for the purchase or care of the books hereafter needed or in actual possession of the library. This is a small sum, but I hope it may possibly

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induce others to add to a permanent fund for the buying or care of books."

In December, 1892, Dr. John Homans, 2nd was elected to the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. F. C. Shattuck, whose loss was greatly regretted by his colleagues. The former was an energetic executive and greatly interested in getting a new building without too much delay. On April 13, 1893, at a Special Meeting, he presented plans for a new building, and it was VOTED: That the Executive Committee be hereby authorized to contract for the erection of a new building on the general plans as shown at this meeting, as soon as in their judgment the funds of the Association warrant their doing so; and the Committee was authorized to appoint a committee to solicit funds. In September of the same year the Building Fund was $10,000 an increase of only $1500 in two years, so that there was no evidence of much progress. At the Annual Meeting October 3, 1893, it was unanimously VOTED: That the Executive Committee be hereby authorized to sell the Boylston Place land and building; but this was not carried into effect until 1899.

The laryngological library of Dr. F. H. Hooper, nearly five hundred volumes and nine rare old medical engravings, was received by a bequest in his will. Drs. F. C. and G. B. Shattuck presented an oil painting of Dr. George C. Shattuck, which

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now hangs in Sprague Hall, — and Dr. V. Y. Bowditch a large book of medical portraits and autograph letters prepared by his father, Dr. H. I. Bowditch, for the Association.

In December, 1893, Dr. W. L. Richardson resigned as a member of the Executive Committee and on April 26, 1894, Dr. J. W. Farlow was elected to fill the vacancy.

The House Committee was given authority to expend twenty dollars for the purpose of hiring for one year a room for the storage of duplicates. I do not find that any room was hired, — perhaps because the energetic Librarian, who was also President of the Massachusetts Cremation Society, made an arrangement whereby a great mass of duplicates and other journals were stored at the Crematory in Forest Hills for several years without charge.

The sale of the Hunt collection of medical books and engravings took place in Boston in October, 1893. A sum of money was contributed with which the Librarian bought one hundred and fifty-eight books and twenty engravings. The most valuable book was purchased by Dr. John Homans, 2nd, and given to the Library, the Fasiciculus Medicinae of Johannes de Ketham, folio, Venice, 1491, said to be the first printed medical book containing illustrations, and the only copy in this country. Many of these and other rare books were stored at the Harvard

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Medical School Building on Boylston Street on account of the risk of fire in the Library Building.

Dr. Holmes died October 7, 1894, and on October 30th a Special Memorial Meeting [1] of the Association was called, presided over by Dr. F. Minot. Remarks were made by Dr. Chadwick, who spoke of Dr. Holmes' long and devoted service as the first President of the Library and of his generous contribution of money on two occasions as well as the gift of his precious library. Drs. Cheever, Porter, and Dwight, who had been his assistants in Anatomy, told of his charming lectures, his pleasing personality, his kindness. Dr. H. P. Bowditch related the circumstances under which he came into possession of a sonnet by Dr. Holmes addressed to Alma Mater, which he read. Dr. G. B. Shattuck related a number of Dr. Holmes' humorous medical stories and gave instances of his kindness of heart. Dr. W. S. Bigelow spoke of the debt the community owed to Dr. Holmes and quoted some very beautiful lines which Dr. Holmes had written about another person, but which were equally adapted to him.

The following resolutions were then VOTED:

That this Association desires to put on record its appreciation of his long service as its President and of the great interest which he always manifested in its welfare; and also to give anew the

[1] A full account of this meeting is to be found in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, Vol. 131, No. 24, Dec. 13, 1894, page 584.

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expression of its admiration of the best beloved member of our profession in America.

It was also VOTED: That the principal hall of the new building be called "Holmes Hall."

In behalf of the contributors, Dr. C. J. Blake presented to the Association the portrait of Dr. Holmes by Billings. Dr. Chadwick called attention to a series of photographs of Dr. Holmes, many of which are now displayed in Holmes Hall in the present building. He also showed the floor plans of the proposed new building.

On June 1, 1896, a Special Meeting was held and resolutions passed on the death of Dr. Forster, who had been the faithful Treasurer of the Library for eleven years. The death of Dr. Edward Wigglesworth caused a vacancy in the Executive Committee which was filled by the election of Dr. W. L. Burrage. Dr. F. I. Knight was chosen Vice-President, succeeding Dr. Cheever.

At the Annual Meeting October 6, 1896, Dr. D. W. Cheever succeeded Dr. Francis Minot as President, and Dr. J. B. Ayer was chosen to take the place of Dr. E. J. Forster as Treasurer.

The Library was notified by the Trustees of the Boston Athenaeum that they intended to dispose of all their medical books and turn over to us all we did not already own. Our list of books and periodicals wanted was sent to the Athenaeum for comparison and it was thought we should receive about five hundred volumes.

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GREAT INCREASE IN SIZE OF LIBRARY

The Society for Medical Improvement voted to give to the Medical Library all their bound volumes and periodicals which had been in our custody since 1878. The Library now (1896) owned everything within its walls.

The Twenty-second Annual Meeting was held on October 5, 1897, when it was announced that the Executive Committee at its meeting on June 3, had voted to express its grateful acknowledgment of the valuable library of its late associate, Dr. Edward Wigglesworth, and that the dermatological section of the Medical Library be known as the Wigglesworth Library of Dermatology. From Mrs. W. S. Fitz, his sister, was received a crayon portrait of him.

Dr. J. C. Warren gave us a large collection of pamphlets and manuscripts relating to the discovery and use of ether, and the Record Book of the first Board of Consulting Physicians of the City of Boston. The medical library of Dr. W. G. Wheeler of Chelsea was received by bequest.

Complaint having been made that the library rooms were so much used by students that members were practically excluded, the House Committee made a rule restricting students to the morning hours.

I have previously spoken[1] of the important financial aid received from the Directory for Nurses. In the Report of the Treasurer, October

[1] See page 81.

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1, 1897, I find that from that source was received during the year $3166, which is two hundred dollars more than the combined receipts from members' dues, rents from Societies, and dividends and interest. Although we needed all the room and all the quiet that we could get in the Library, we felt obliged to continue the Directory, even if we were incommoded by the disturbance connected with it.

The year 1898 brought to the Library a number of valuable accessions. From Dr. W. S. Bigelow was received a large part of the medical library of his father, the late Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, and a mezzotint of Dr. D. Turner. The Athenaeum sent a large installment from their medical department, and Dr. Hamilton Osgood his laryngological library. Dr. Conrad Wesselhoeft added a large number of homeopathic journals which served to complete our files. From Dr. F. C. Shattuck were received two hundred and thirty autograph letters of distinguished physicians. The autograph collection was increased by some important letters of the last century given by Mrs. W. H. H. Hastings; and the libraries of the late Drs. J. L. Sullivan and Benjamin Cushing were presented by members of the families.

On June 29, 1898, the Harvard Medical Alumni Association, learning that the income of the Library had fallen off during the year VOTED: "That this Association, in consideration of the

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services which the Boston Medical Library has rendered to the Harvard Medical School and to the Profession, contribute for its use two hundred and fifty dollars from the funds of the year 1898 solely." A further contribution of $500 to the new building fund was made in 1901.

In April of the same year a communication was received from friends of the late Dr. George B. Dolliver offering to establish a fund to be known as the "Dolliver Fund," the income to be used for the purchase of books relating to Obstetrics and Gynecology. This fund when completed amounted to two hundred and forty dollars.

The Librarian again called attention to the need of larger quarters, saying that there were then very few volumes on our shelves besides the periodicals, numbering nearly 18,000 volumes and increasing at the rate of nine hundred volumes a year. The books stored in the Crematory were in a safe place and no rent was charged, but it surely was not an ideal location for a library.

The increase in the number of volumes necessitating the larger building is shown in the table giving the number of volumes and pamphlets at intervals beginning October, 1876.

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YEAR	VOLUMES	PAMPHLETS
1876	4,488	
1877	6,466	
1881	10,123	5,678
1884	14,799	12,289
1886	16,374	14,832
1888	18,596	18,122
1890	20,593	20,185
1892	22,273	22,146
1894	24,841	23,472
1896	26,910	23,723
1898	30,310	25,965
1899	31,688	27,112

The figures for November, 1900, are not available, because the Librarian and his staff were so occupied in preparations for moving to The Fenway that accurate tabulation of additions was postponed; but we may say that at least 33,000 volumes and 30,000 pamphlets were taken to the new building in January, 1901, in addition to the duplicate library, other duplicates and sundry material not yet catalogued. There was no doubt that No. 5 Hamilton Place was outgrown in 1878, and No. 19 Boylston Place was outgrown in a still greater degree in 1900. How the library ever continued to exist and serve its members in the overcrowded quarters, seems more or less of a wonder, as we look back on it.

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V

Removal to The Fenway — Dedication and Description of New Building

THE question of a new and larger building for the Library was getting to be a serious one, but it had been a very difficult matter to decide how to raise the necessary funds. In 1893 Dr. J. Homans had presented plans for a building, and the Executive Committee had been authorized to contract for its erection as soon as funds were sufficient. The land on St. Botolph Street was paid for, and the natural course seemed to be to use it as the site for a new building; but the neighborhood was getting to be an undesirable one, causing strong feeling among the members that it was better to go ahead slowly and meanwhile be on the lookout for another lot. The financial conditions in 1893 and the following years were very depressing and there was no hope of raising money until times were better. In 1896 a motion to exchange the St. Botolph Street lot for one on Caledonia was not carried. A Special Meeting to raise funds was held on November 29, 1898, the proceedings of which were printed

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and distributed among the members and many others, in order to create interest in the needs of the Library. Dr. Cheever presided and described the crowded state of the present building and its unsafe condition, making a strong appeal to those outside as well as inside the profession. He was followed by Dr. Chadwick, who told of what the Library consisted, of its special collections, its rare books, its portraits, its valuable sets of periodicals. Dr. J. C. Warren urged the young men to come forward and do their part toward this so greatly needed building. Dr. A. K. Stone, Dr. G. B. Shattuck, Dr. Councilman and Dr. F. J. Cotton spoke in the same vein, — Dr. Shattuck adding the great importance of the Library as a place to which books and all sorts of medical material could be sent for safe keeping. Dr. Chadwick said that while the plans which had been shown were for a building on the St. Botolph Street lot, he was not wedded to that situation and wished the committee to take into consideration the question of location as well as of raising money.

On motion by Dr. F. I. Knight it was then VOTED: That a General Committee of not less than twenty-five, with the President as Chairman, and the other officers of the Association as members ex-officiis, with power to add to their number, be appointed by the chair to take charge of the raising of funds; That from this Committee an

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Executive Committee of five be appointed by the chair, to have entire management of the details of the whole subject, and report regularly to the General Committee; That a Special Committee of three be appointed to consider and report upon the question of a site for the new building. Drs. J. B. Ayer, Arthur H. Nichols, and Walter L. Burrage were appointed Committee on the Site. Drs. J. C. Warren, J. C. White, H. P. Bowditch, C. J. Blake, F. C. Shattuck, A. T. Cabot, G. W. Gay, Harold Williams, H. L. Burrell, A. K. Stone, W. N. Bullard, M. Storer, J. A. Tanner, E. H. Stevens, and H. F. Hewes were those added to the Executive Committee and the officers of the Society to form the General Committee.

The President was requested by the Executive Committee to draw up a statement setting forth the merits and demerits of the sites proposed for the new building, to be sent out with a call for a Special Meeting on May 25, 1899.

The notice sent out by the clerk and the Statement prepared by the President are as follows:

"*Boston Medical Library*

"A Special Meeting of the Boston Medical Library will be held at 8 P.M., Thursday, May 25, 1899, at 19 Boylston Place:

"I. To decide whether the land owned by the Library on St. Botolph and Garrison Streets, or

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land on the Fenway next the Massachusetts Historical Society's building, shall be chosen as the site for a new building.

"II. To give the Executive Committee authority to sell the real estate of the Library.

"To give the Treasurer authority to sign for the Library the necessary deeds and papers in case of a sale of such real estate.

"III. In case another site is selected by the Library at this meeting to give the Executive Committee authority to purchase it.

"O. F. WADSWORTH, *Clerk*

"*Statement by the Committee*

"After mature consideration and numerous conferences, the Committee appointed to raise money for a new building and to select a site, find themselves *evenly divided* in opinion between *two* locations: the land we own on St. Botolph and Garrison streets, and lots on the Fenway, next the Historical building. Being unable to reach a decision, we are obliged to return to the Association for guidance. And the President has been instructed to prepare a brief statement of the differing views of the advocates for either lot.

"(1) On Garrison and St. Botolph Streets we own 10,000 feet of corner land. We have two fronts, and a rear open on a sixteen foot passage. We have thus much light on two sides, and fair light on a third side.

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"We can build a symmetrical building, of any size to suit us. The location is quiet; accessible, by one hundred feet, to the electrics on Huntington Avenue, and near the Albany and New York and New Haven Railway stations. It is a handy place for a Nurses' Bureau, central and easily reached.

"On the other hand it is not an attractive site. It will not appreciate in value of land. It is objected that it will be smoky from passing trains; that the character of the neighborhood will not improve.

"(2) On the Fenway we can buy two (or three) lots facing west by south, and next the Historical building. The western light will be very strong on the front. We can build fifty feet front by one hundred deep. The rear is tolerable, but not attractive. The front view is unsurpassed. It will be quiet, clean, bleak. It will appreciate in value of land. We cannot build a symmetrical building, without wells and irregularities. We are limited to seventy feet in height on the front. We *may* be allowed to carry the rear higher for a book-stack. (This depends on the interpretation of the law by the Park Commissioners.) We must buy a third lot, and keep it wholly or partially unoccupied for side windows and for future growth. We shall have a building twice as long as it is wide, and with a dark centre, unless we have plenty of side windows.

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"It is objected that this place is not central — never will have around it the population, as it gives on a park and a river; that it is not accessible; that the doctors to the east and southeast, Roxbury, Dorchester, etc., strongly oppose it; that it is no place for a Nurses' Bureau; that it is bleak and unhandy for seven months in the year, and that it will remain so.

"The nearest electrics are on Massachusetts Avenue and Ipswich Street.

"In rebuttal it is said that this site is the only one worthy of the dignity of the profession, and that a handsome building there will bring us notice, money, and reputation.

"The land we own on Garrison and St. Botolph Streets is assessed for $25,000.

"Two lots on the Fenway will cost $24,000; and *three* lots $42,000."

In addition to these two lots, the Committee on Site had also considered No. 6 Marlboro Street, where Mrs. Shaw's school had been for many years; but it was thought that it would involve a great deal of expense to transform an old school building into a modern library, and the idea was abandoned.

At this Special Meeting eighty-two members were present. Dr. Homans said that $32,000 had been subscribed and Dr. E. P. Joslin reported that the younger men would guarantee the interest on $25,000 at four per cent, for five years.

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REMOVAL TO THE FENWAY

After a long discussion, it was VOTED: (53 for, 19 against) That the Fenway Lots be chosen for the new building, and that the Executive Committee be authorized to sell the real estate of the Library and purchase the Fenway Lots. In accordance with this vote, the Committee directed Dr. Burrage and the Treasurer to purchase three lots on the Fenway, at not more than four dollars per foot for fifty feet next to the Massachusetts Historical Society building, and six dollars for the next twenty-five feet; and on May 31, 1899, the Committee authorized the sale to Mr. Joseph Walker of the Boylston Place real estate for $23,500, reserving the right to occupy the premises rent free for one and one-half years, or until January 1, 1901.

On June 5, 1899, the Executive Committee voted to accept a gift of $20,000 at the hands of Mr. Benj. L. M. Tower, Trustee, from an anonymous donor, to be applied toward the erection of a building for its use or the purchase of land.

At a Special Meeting of the Library on June 9, 1899, it was VOTED: To appoint a Building Committee of three to have charge of the preparation of plans for, and erection of, the new building on land to be purchased on the Fenway. Drs. J. Collins Warren, J. R. Chadwick and Farrar Cobb were appointed as this Committee; Shaw and Hunnewell being selected as architects.

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THE BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

On November 20, 1899, McNeil Brothers were awarded the contract for erecting the building for $86,000; in addition to this were the contracts for heating, bookstacks, and wiring, and no provision was then made for finishing Sprague Hall or John Ware Hall. An elevator well and room for the machinery were included, but the elevator was left for future consideration.

The Committee to raise funds was conducting an energetic campaign with Dr. John Homans, 2nd, the leading spirit. The circular written by Dr. Cheever gives a clear account of the conditions existing in March, 1900.

"BOSTON, *March* 17, 1900

"*Dear Doctor:*

"I have been asked to write this personal letter to you as one of the prominent members of our profession; and to request you to give such sum as you think proper to the Building Fund of the Boston Medical Library; and also to suggest to you to solicit subscriptions from such wealthy persons in your community as you select.

"We have raised by subscription, almost entirely in Boston, and largely from physicians, about $56,000. We have sold our present Library Building, 19 Boylston Place for $23,500.

"We own our old lot on St. Botolph Street, assessed for $25,000.

"We have paid $42,000 for our new land for

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the Library, on the Fenway. We have contracted for $98,000 for a new Library Building, including heating, ventilating and lighting, and we estimate the furnishing and moving, etc., at $10,000, from which it will appear that we still need nearly $50,000 to meet our obligations.

"The medical profession has responded nobly, but we still need more from them as well as from the laity.

"I would call to your attention that the privileges of the New Library are not restricted to Boston, but include the profession throughout the State.

"This is to be an Academy of Medicine, a Medical Club, and meeting place, and the future home of the Massachusetts Medical Society. It will be a credit to Medicine, and a valuable repertory of books and periodicals. The reading room, open to the profession, will be large and well supplied, and ample facilities will be afforded for all medical societies and organizations.

"I hope you will be able to respond, both personally and by proxy.

"Any sum will be welcome, and may be forwarded to Dr. John Homans, 2nd, Chairman of the Committee to solicit subscriptions, No. 315 Marlborough Street, Boston.

Very truly yours,

DAVID W. CHEEVER, M.D.,

President of the Boston Medical Library."

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The total raised by subscription was about $79,000, and the cost of the building was $126,000.

The building was ready at about the expected time, no unnecessary delays having interrupted the work; this was important, because the Boylston Place Building had been sold with the provision that rent would be charged after a year and a half. As a matter of fact, only two weeks' rent had to be paid.

The Library was open to the public for inspection on Saturday, January 12, 1901, the Dedication taking place in the evening at eight o'clock, the exercises being held in what is now John Ware Hall, but at that time it was unfinished and unnamed. The President, Dr. D. W. Cheever, made the opening address, telling the story of the early days of the Library and of what it had done for the medical profession. He called attention to the noteworthy fact that the new building had been completed for less than the estimated cost, owing largely to the prudent management and practical knowledge of Dr. Farrar Cobb. Much of the financial success in raising funds was due to the tact of the Committee to solicit subscriptions, of which Dr. John Homans, 2nd was chairman.

He called on Dr. Chadwick, the Librarian: "If any man were named who had collected and created our Library, it is he."

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XIII — THE WANT BOOK

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Dr. Chadwick spoke of the importance of periodicals and of the great value of the Index Catalogue and Index Medicus of the Surgeon General's Office in Washington under the charge of Dr. J. S. Billings. The Boston Library had grown rapidly in this important branch of medical literature, and although only twenty-five years old, was the fourth in size in the country. He told (what had always been a mystery to most people) how the library with practically no invested funds had been able to achieve such results. In the first place, we were fortunate enough at the outset to secure the custodianship of the libraries of all the societies pre-existing in the city. In the second place, most liberal contributions were made to us by many private individuals. In the third place, the completeness of our files of journals and transactions he attributed largely to the existence of the volume which he held in his hand, his "Want Book," wherein, upon the left hand was entered every periodical of which we had any part, while on the opposite page was entered every volume or number needed to complete our file of that particular journal. By carrying this with him in this country and in Europe, he had been able to secure at trifling expense a large number of needed periodicals. He then said that the time had come to enlarge the scope of the functions of the Library by assuming the *rôle* of a Society in addi-

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tion to that of a Library, urging the creation of an Academy of Medicine.

Dr. F. W. Draper, President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, followed with congratulations on the evolution of the Library from its "modest quarters in Hamilton Place, and the larger building, in that diverticulum of hidden dangers, that Bohemian Midway Plaisance, Boylston Place," to the present beautiful structure in its picturesque and dignified environment. He spoke of the Library as the home of the Medical Society, where its meetings were held, its records preserved, its books cared for, and where its members from all parts of the State could come together.

Dr. Osler, at that time Professor in Johns Hopkins University, expressed the satisfaction that he had, that Dr. Chadwick had at last seen fulfilled the desire of his eyes. He spoke of the great value of such libraries to authors and said that "only a maker of books can appreciate the labors of others at their true value." He advocated a select company of Immortals set apart for special adoration and considered that New England would have a large share in this American Roll of Honor.

Dr. J. S. Billings spoke of the importance of periodicals and indexes and of how the Index Catalogue had added to the practical utility of the Boston Medical Library. He said that the

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members of this Library should not overlook the needs of the Surgeon General's Library in Washington, but should be willing to urge Congress to make the appropriation necessary for the work of that great Library. He pointed out the assistance that Dr. Chadwick had been to all other medical libraries in this country at the same time that he was doing such wonderful work for his own.

Dr. H. C. Wood, of Philadelphia, was unable to be present, but sent his address, which urged strongly the enlarging of the functions of the Library and the formation of an Academy of Medicine, citing the example of the success of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Dr. Henry P. Walcott, Acting President of Harvard University, told of the different libraries in connection with the University and said that the Medical School had the smallest number of books, perhaps because the Boston Medical Library has most freely given to the teachers and students of the School access to its great resources. He suggested that the University might give the Medical Library an equivalent for the valuable and necessary assistance so freely and generously bestowed.

A letter from Dr. Weir Mitchell was read, in which he spoke of the great waste of time there had been in his younger days when there were no great medical libraries and no Index Catalogue to help him in his researches. He considered a

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XIV — THE SUPPER ROOM AND SMOKING ROOM

THE Supper Room which looks out on to the Parkway. The door nearly closed leads to the entrance hall. The pictures are nearly all those of members of the Massachusetts Medical Society. The photographs in a frame on the left are those of ex-Presidents of that Society. Just to the left of the door is a framed silhouette of Dr. Holyoke, the first President of the Society. Others are physicians and surgeons of Boston hospitals. Opening from this room by a large door is the room used in connection with the Supper Room for the meetings of the various societies, the Cotting Lunch and for all occasions when food is served.

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XIV — THE SUPPER ROOM AND SMOKING ROOM

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great medical library as a labor-saving machine and lengthener of life by saving time.

An account of the Dedication with an Editorial from the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, January 17, 1900, together with floor plans of the new building was issued as a separate publication of forty-six pages, dated 1901.

The Library, No. 8 The Fenway

Leading from the entrance hall is the Supper Room, more or less identified with the Massachusetts Medical Society, with numerous pictures of former worthies of the Society hanging on the walls. In the rear of this is a lounge or smoking room, and a dumb waiter to the basement.

On the left of the entrance was the office of the Directory for Nurses, (since 1914 the Librarian's room) and the living rooms of the nurses in charge. These latter quarters have been transformed into a stack-room for books. In the rear of this floor is a hall seating about seventy-five persons, used for the smaller meetings. It was named Sprague Hall in memory of Dr. Richard Sprague whose mother and brother, Mr. C. F. Sprague, gave the money for fitting up the room.

The main reading room 72 feet long by 32 feet deep is on the second floor facing the parkway and with two large windows looking in the opposite direction, insuring plenty of light and air. It is

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XV—HOLMES HALL

HOLMES HALL, looking toward the southern end of the room, the parkway being on the right or toward the west, where the view is entirely unobstructed. On the left is a part of the card catalogue case and over it the portrait of Dr. D. Humphreys Storer by Vinton, with framed medals on either side. Over the smaller card catalogue case and hanging under the electric light fixture is a photograph of Dr. Chadwick. Underneath the corresponding one on the other side of the door, is the bronze memorial tablet to him. On the door is the list of the latest accessions and on the small high table near the door is the book which all except members are expected to sign at each visit to the Library. The assistant in charge sits at the further of the two desks and her assistant occupies the other one. The bookcase behind her contains the recent accessions; on top of it is the bronze bust of Dr. J. Marion Sims. Beyond this can be seen some of the swinging leaves containing the Storer medals. At the end of the room over the mantel is the bust of Dr. Holmes by R. E. Brooks. His portrait is in a corresponding position over the mantel at the end opposite this, but not shown in the picture. The projecting bookcases on the right show alcoves between them, and on the ends of these cases are photographs, principally of Dr. Holmes, and also engravings of noted surgeons. The showcases given by Dr. Osler are seen near the mantel.

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XV — HOLMES HALL

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finished in dark oak, with bookcases at the ends of the room and also projecting out into the room from between the front windows so as to make five alcoves, where there are tables for the use of members. In the centre of the room are two long tables with chairs, furnishing places for about twenty readers. In the bookcases are works of reference and the latest books on the most called-for branches of medicine and the volumes of the last ten or more years of the most important periodicals. The portrait of Dr. Holmes is over one mantel and his bust over the other. The Storer collection of Medical Medals is in this hall, the portrait of Dr. D. H. Storer being over the card catalogue and near a number of the choicest framed medals.

In the rear of this floor was the Periodical Room, now the Catalogue Room, the small room which the cataloguers originally used being now occupied by the Assistant Librarian. The small room off of Holmes Hall, intended for the Librarian or his assistant, was not satisfactory for that purpose and is used as a work-room. The stacks begin on this floor and extend up five stories, with space, theoretically, for 50,000, but falling far short of this.

The next story, an intermediate floor, contained in the rear a pamphlet or students' room, now changed into the Periodical Room, the pamphlets being moved down-stairs and placed around the

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XVI—SPRAGUE HALL

SPRAGUE HALL is panelled in dark oak. The large portrait on the left is that of Henry J. Bigelow by Vinton, the one on the extreme right is Samuel Danforth by Gilbert Stuart, and the other one is Dr. J. B. S. Jackson. Portraits of Dr. H. I. Bowditch and Dr. George C. Shattuck on the wall opposite the chairman's desk are not shown. The door on the le t leads into a room for the lecturer. The three chairs of Spanish leather on the platform are gifts of the Sprague family. The wires stretched across the corner of the room are for the attachment of diagrams, and not to prevent an echo.

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XVI — SPRAGUE HALL

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present Catalogue Room. Leading out of what was formerly the Pamphlet Room is what is called the Fifield Room. On December 12, 1900, the Executive Committee VOTED: To accept with thanks Mrs. W. C. B. Fifield's offer to furnish a room in the library building as proposed by her and would be glad to name it after the late Dr. Fifield. This room contains a long mahogany table and chairs adapted for committee meetings, for which it is used; on the walls are hung photographs of medical men, lecture tickets, and many other interesting mementoes of earlier medical practice and men.

In the upper floor, over Holmes Hall, is the room in which the Dedication exercises were held. Thanks to the generous gift of five thousand dollars by Dr. and Mrs. Charles M. Green in 1901, it was finished in oak with wooden beams overhead, and was named John Ware Hall in memory of Dr. John Ware, the father of Mrs. Green. Here are held the large meetings of the Massachusetts Medical Society and the conjoint meetings of the Library and the Suffolk District Society.

Over the speaker's desk is the large picture, painted and presented by Mr. Robert Hinckley, of Washington, representing the first operation under ether at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1846. There is a portrait and also a bust of Dr. John Ware (the gift of Dr. Green) and a number of other portraits about the room.

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XVII—CHADWICK PERIODICAL ROOM, 1914

THE Chadwick Periodical Room in 1914 when it was overcrowded and used more as a work room than a reading room. The portrait of Dr. Chadwick by Wilton Lockwood is over the periodical case on the left. In the corner is Mr. Ballard, Assistant Librarian, at his desk. All the cases and furniture were moved up stairs in 1916 and the room was turned over to the cataloguers as their work room.

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XVII — CHADWICK PERIODICAL ROOM, 1914

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In the rear of this floor is a small hall intended for meetings, but needed and used for books, the Harvard College Library and the Tiedemann collection being here. Later, bookstacks are to be built across the floor, making it a stack-room. The growth of the library has been so rapid that our regular stacks have proved to be ridiculously inadequate and every nook and corner has had to be pressed into service.

A campaign for increased membership was started by a Committee who issued the following circular:

"*Dear Doctor:*

"Twenty-five years ago the tireless energy of a small group of Boston doctors, who had the foresight to realize that a good medical library was essential to medical growth, set in motion the enterprise which has just given birth to the new and beautiful library building on the Fenway.

"As a warrant to high standards of medical education, and as a means to bind together men by whom knowledge is held in respect, this movement is second in importance only to the founding of the medical school itself, and because it has been felt to be of this significance it has secured the generous support in time and money, even of many physicians who rarely have the opportunity to consult the books upon the library shelves.

"At the last meeting of the library a new de-

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XVIII—FIFIELD ROOM

FIFIELD ROOM looking into the Periodical Room. On the walls pictures of medical men, tickets to lectures, souvenirs of old-time practice. Portrait of Dr. Cotton Tufts on the right of the door; photographs of the Dorchester Medical Club in a frame on the extreme left.

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XVIII — FIFIELD ROOM

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parture was decided on for the success of which your co-operation is required.

"The library was never intended to be an institution for Boston only, but an institution of Massachusetts or of New England. We wish a wider sympathy and support from physicians of towns and cities outside of Suffolk County, for they too, for their own sake and the credit of the profession, and for the sake of the coming generations, are bound to have the success of this movement at heart.

"The new building, erected almost wholly through the devotion of members of the profession, offers you a convenient and pleasant place for friendly meeting; the information which will some day be indispensable to you is here ready to your hand; those of your sons who follow in your steps will find here the inspiration essential to their success.

"We beg you to join us as full and active members, if you will, and at any rate to contribute the five dollars to which, at the last meeting, it was voted to reduce the assessment of those who, living outside the limits of Old Boston, preferred to join as associate members.

"*For the* COMMITTEE ON EXTENSION OF MEMBERSHIP"

8 *The Fenway,*
March 29, 1901

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XIX—JOHN WARE HALL

JOHN WARE HALL where the large meetings are held. The windows on the left look toward the Parkway. The large picture at the end of the room is the "Ether picture" by Robert Hinckley. The light is arranged to fall on the young man being operated on by Dr. John C. Warren. The figures are portraits made in accordance with descriptions given the artist by eye witnesses. The bust on the pedestal is of Dr. John Ware by Bela Pratt, and his portrait is the one between the two doors. The one near the bust is Dr. T. B. Curtis.

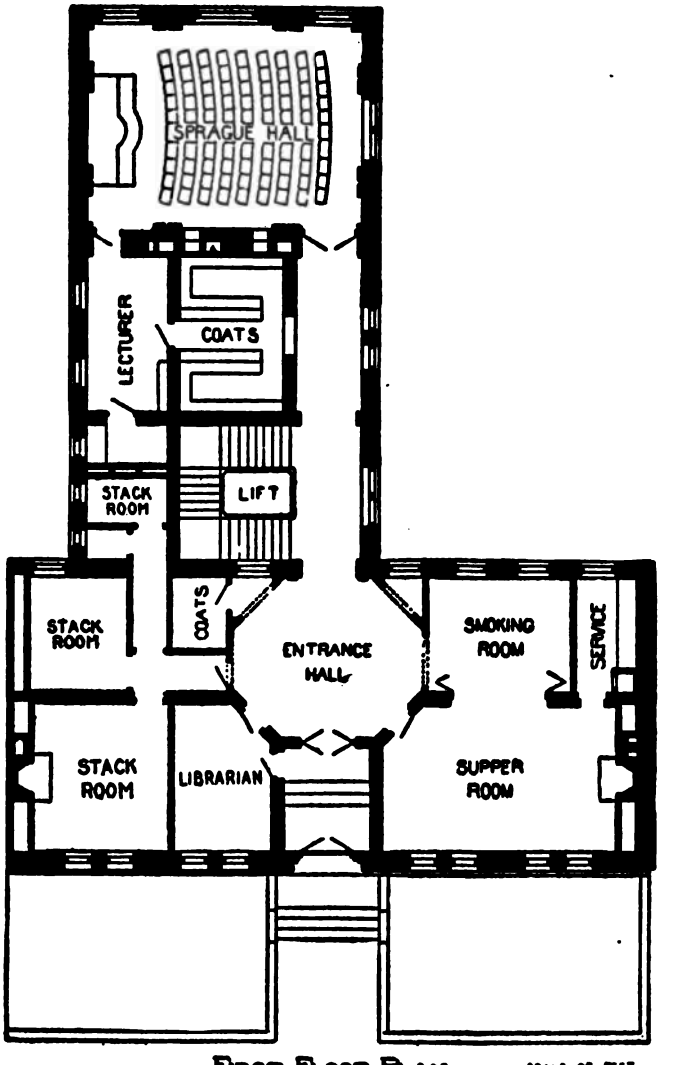
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XIX — JOHN WARE HALL

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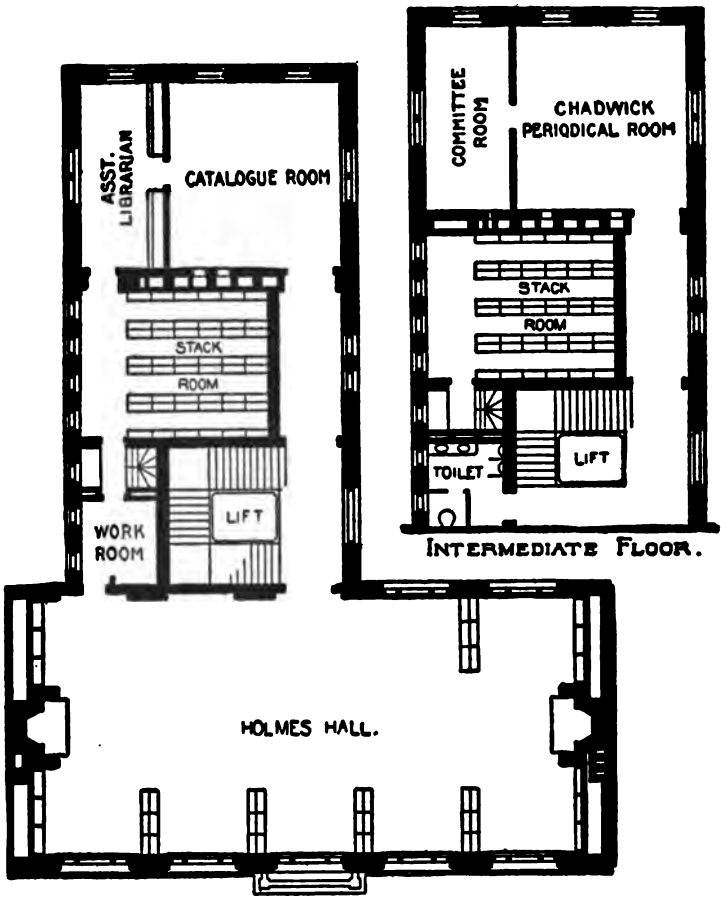


FIRST FLOOR PLAN
1918

SCALE OF FEET

PLATE XX

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SECOND FLOOR PLAN

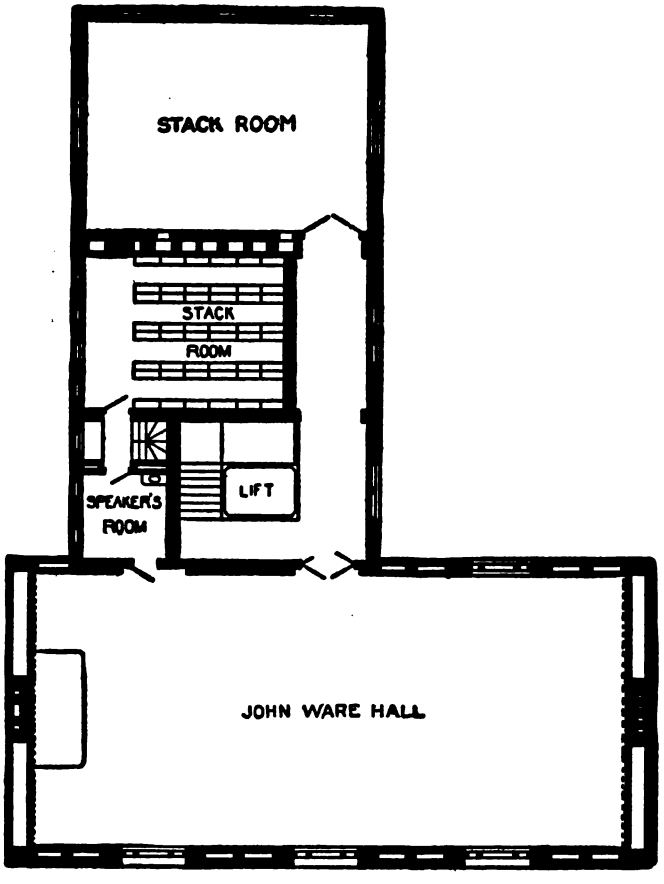
1915

SCALE OF FEET.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

PLATE XXI

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THIRD FLOOR PLAN

SCALE OF FEET

PLATE XXII

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XXIII — CHADWICK PERIODICAL ROOM, 1918

THE Chadwick Periodical Room in 1918, with the portrait of Dr. Chadwick. Underneath it is a large cabinet with sliding doors in which is our collection of engravings and portraits. At the desk on the right is Dr. Brigham's headquarters, as Library Curator and also Librarian of the Massachusetts Medical Society. The periodicals are kept in the compartments as shown, the other two sides of the room not seen in the picture having similar places.

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XXIII — CHADWICK PERIODICAL ROOM, 1918

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VI

In the Fenway — Various Happenings of Importance

ONE of the first things to be done after moving into Hamilton Place was the preparation of a catalogue, and in this work Drs. F. H. Brown, E. Wigglesworth, E. M. Buckingham, and others took an active part. The titles of the books were written on small cards and kept in a box. None of the helpers had had any library experience, and it was not until the arrival of Mrs. Collins in February, 1880, from the Boston Public Library that a proper and uniform system was developed, one in conformity with the Index Catalogue of the Surgeon General's Library, which had been selected as the model. It is a so-called Dictionary Catalogue, author and subject cards with cross-references in one alphabet. The cards are now kept in drawers in Holmes Hall for the convenience of readers. There should also be an authors' card catalogue in the Catalogue Room, in order to obviate the need of going to Holmes Hall whenever members of

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the staff wish to look up titles; but lack of funds has not justified this, otherwise desirable, expense.

The titles of the periodicals were entered in a small book by Dr. Brigham, on the left-hand page the name of the journal of which we had any part, on the opposite page the volumes or numbers needed to complete our file. On moving to Boylston Place in 1878, a much larger book was needed for the same purpose; and upon the advent of Mrs. Collins, whose special work was to make a catalogue of the periodicals, so many were found to be imperfect that it was necessary to collate each one before a correct list of wants could be made out. This required a still larger book, Volume 3, which was reinforced with bands of leather forming handles for convenience in carrying about. This was the "Want Book" which Dr. Chadwick always took with him on his travels in this country and in Europe, in order that he might have at hand a sure way of knowing what was needed by the Library to fill gaps. Plate XIII gives a good idea of this much-traveled and much-used volume. After moving to the Fenway, the immense number of journals brought back to the Library from storage, and the increasing quantities of accessions which were beyond the power of the staff to keep track of, made the "Want Book" so far from up-to-date that it was given up because it was neither complete nor accurate.

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XXIV — Mrs. ELIZABETH J. COLLINS

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The Classification was based on that of the Index Medicus and to it Dr. Chadwick gave most serious thought until his death. Although the Boston Medical Library was started in 1875, five years before the first volume of the Index Catalogue appeared, the subject of classification was discussed by Dr. Chadwick with Drs. Billings and Fletcher in Washington and also by letter. A letter from Dr. Billings to Dr. Chadwick, written in the early part of 1877, says that he has not yet got the Classification for the Index, but is working his way along, putting each card under what seemed a natural heading for it and looking over the cards later to see what conclusions could be drawn; in other words, the Classification was not to be *a priori*, but *a posteriori*. He sends Dr. Chadwick a rough draught of what he calls "not a complete Classification, — but a hasty memorandum of card headings — for corrections and additions." This interchange of suggestions was kept up for many years, and was productive of great benefit to the Boston Library. Our system has been elaborated in recent years so as to provide for all works on medicine and the allied sciences, and to permit of many subdivisions in each section. Mr. Ballard, the Assistant Librarian, has recently published the details of this system with a Foreword in the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association for January, 1918, pages 33 to 63.

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On moving to the Fenway, the great mass of periodicals which had been stored for many years at the crematory in Forest Hills and in a barn at Jamaica Plain was brought to the Library and placed in the basement, filling several rooms from floor to ceiling, journals in all languages and from all countries, many of them very dusty after their long sojourn in the country. The task of sorting and arranging all the material according to country, language, and then alphabetically, the looking up what was needed to complete our files or to make duplicate sets was a tremendous undertaking. The small staff of the Library was so occupied with their regular work, that they could give no assistance. Dr. Chadwick was equal to the task and laid out a plan which was carried to completion. He worked at it several hours nearly every day including Sundays and holidays, and sometimes also in the evening. Being Chairman of the Library Committee, I was pressed into the service, unable to resist his good-natured invitation to help the good work along. I have seen him drop in on his way to a dinner party, in evening dress, and do half an hour's work, so as to hurry up some particular task that he was anxious to finish. Dr. E. B. Young was also a frequent helper in what seemed at first a never ending undertaking, and Dr. Steeve often lent assistance as well. After more than two years, the journals that we needed had been added

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to our shelves, and 101 large cases of duplicates had been distributed to sixteen medical libraries, — from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon, — according to their Want Lists; the otherwise worthless material being sent to the old paper mill. I think very few of the members of the Library realize the extent and value of this colossal undertaking.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on October 11, 1900, a letter was read from Dr. Horatio R. Storer, of Newport, R. I., formerly of Boston, offering to the Library his Collection of Medals relating to medicine, in memory of his father, the late Dr. David Humphreys Storer, and to recall his own connection with the physicians of Boston; and it was VOTED: That the Collection of Medals offered by Dr. Storer be gratefully accepted on the conditions proposed by him, viz:

"1. That the Collection shall be known as the Storer Memorial Collection of Medical Medals.

"2. That it shall be kept together, as far as may be possible, and in suitable cases.

"3. That its care shall be intrusted to my son, Dr. Malcolm Storer, during his willingness to serve. Thereafter, if either of my grandsons shall become a physician in Boston, I shall trust that he may have preference as Curator.

"4. That if at any time in the future, through now unforeseen circumstances, the Library shall

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cease to exist as such, or its control shall pass to persons according to the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association in any way irregular, the Collection shall be transferred to the possession of Harvard University, from which my father received his medical degree in 1825, I my own in 1853, and my son his in 1889;"

That the thanks of the Library be transmitted to Dr. Storer, and that the desire expressed by him that his father's portrait, now the property of the Library, be hung in the vicinity of the Collection be acceded to.

The Medals, 2,139 in number when received, were arranged in Holmes Hall in swinging leaves so that both sides of each medal can be seen; others are kept in a cabinet and a few are framed and hang on the wall. A card catalogue has been made of the entire collection giving a complete description of each medal, with any known information of interest concerning it, by the aid of which and of the several hundred cards of cross reference, any one interested can easily find out what medals there are in the Collection bearing upon any given subject. There are also some two hundred and fifty engravings and photographs of medals as yet unrepresented by the medals themselves. The Collection has been greatly increased by gifts from sixty kind friends of the Library, in addition to the numerous accessions received from Dr. Storer.

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Dr. Malcolm Storer has very kindly written me the following facts in regard to his father's interest in the subject of Medical Medals, which led to the formation of this splendid Collection:

"Dr. Storer's interest goes back to 1878, when, on returning to this country as an invalid after some years spent in Europe, he cast about for something wherewith to occupy his leisure. It occurred to him that it might be of interest to form a collection of medals in any way connected with the science and art of Medicine. At that time a few medical medals were to be found scattered in various private and public collections; there were, however, almost no collections devoted entirely to medical numismatics, probably the only ones in this country being those of the Army Medical Museum in Washington and of the late Dr. George J. Fisher of Sing Sing, N. Y., which latter collection Dr. Storer purchased for the Medical Library some years ago. In Europe there were formerly the large collections of purely medical medals of Dr. Moehsen of Berlin, Dr. Schoenlein of Zurich, Dr. Kluyskens of Ghent and Dr. Duisburg of Danzig, all of which were broken up at the death of their owners.

"The collection of Dr. Josef Brettauer of Trieste, of whom the Library has a personal medallion, not long ago went to the University of Vienna by bequest. The very valuable collection of Dr. Frederic Parkes Weber of London has

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recently been divided by him between the British Museum and the Boston Medical Library, a most notable gift. The latter received a series, complete with one exception, of the gold "touch pieces" given by the Stuart Kings and Pretenders to patients whom they had touched for the King's evil; also artist's proof medals of Hooker and Huxley and a very rare medallion of Darwin by Legros.

"At the present moment, the only large collections of 'medicals' are the Boston Collection, that of the Army Medical Museum, the Disbrow Collection at the University of Pennsylvania, and those of Dr. H. B. Jacobs, of Baltimore, Prof. Raphael Blanchard, of Paris, that of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, of London, and the Brettauer Collection at Vienna. Of course, in all large general collections, such as those of the British Museum, the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris, and the Imperial Museums of Berlin and Petrograd there are many medical medals. The Boston Collection is probably the largest of all special collections, both in numbers and in wideness of field covered.

"A word may be of interest as to how these medals have been got together. For the most part they are the result of careful watching of the auction sales of medals that were frequently held in Europe before the war. Occasionally Dr. Storer has been able to buy entire collections, like

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the Fisher collection, or the almost perfect series of the jetons of the Medical Faculty of Paris formed by the late Dr. A. Chéreau of that city, which contains many rare pieces that are not even in the Bibliothèque Nationale. Numberless numismatic correspondents in every part of the world have been of great assistance in supplying him with desired medals and in sending him descriptions of rare pieces in their own collections. Many artists, such as Tony Szirmai, of Paris, Victor D. Brenner, of New York, and Dr. R. Tait McKenzie, of Philadelphia, have generously contributed of their productions, as has the Whitehead and Hoag Company, of Newark, New Jersey. In fact, the Collection has aroused so much interest among numismatists everywhere that their co-operation has been given freely and enthusiastically."

The first society to hold its meeting in the new building was the Section for Clinical Medicine of the Suffolk District Society, on January 16, 1901, in Sprague Hall, with an attendance of nineteen. The first meeting of the Medical Improvement Society was January 21st.

In 1901 there were received by bequest from Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, two full length portraits of himself, that in youth painted by Lazarus in 1871, now in John Ware Hall, — that in mature age by Vinton, in Sprague Hall, the latter painted at the request of many members of the association in

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1889. Dr. Chadwick had promised to give the greater part of his gynecological and obstetrical library as soon as we had a place for it. He now sent seven hundred volumes, thirty-five hundred pamphlets, and photographs and engravings of physicians. A stereoscope devised by Dr. Holmes was given by Miss Minns; and from Drs. Joslin, H. R. Storer, J. C. Warren, H. C. Ernst, H. P. Walcott, Mrs. Sumner, and Mrs. Jeffries came very welcome books in large numbers.

The autograph collection had increased, and waited to be classified by some one with time, experience, and enthusiasm. This work was undertaken by Mr. C. P. Greenough, an ardent collector, a friend of Dr. Chadwick, and his efforts resulted in the mounting and arranging of a large part of what we then had. He also presented many autographs from his own collection.

Two sums of money were received as Book Funds at this time; one of $1500 from Mrs. Felix Rackemann, as a memorial to her father, the late Dr. Francis Minot, who had been President of the Library for six years. The income is for books in English on the diagnosis and treatment of disease; a book plate accompanied the gift. The other was from Mrs. E. J. Forster as a Memorial to her husband, who had been the faithful Treasurer of the Library for eleven years. The amount was $500, the income to be used for books on obstetrics and gynecology. She also

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gave a book plate. Still another gift was received in 1903, from Mr. Robert Winsor, one thousand dollars, the income to be used for the purchase of books on State Medicine and Hygiene, in memory of his father, the late Dr. Frederick Winsor.

The Annual Report for 1903 refers to books and periodicals from Dr. C. G. Cumston and Dr. E. M. Buckingham, books and journals on laryngology from Dr. J. W. Farlow, books from the library of the late Dr. John Homans, 2nd, from Dr. J. C. Warren, from Mrs. Fifield, Dr. Warren F. Gay, the estate of Dr. E. N. Whittier, and many others.

A Committee on Social Meetings, consisting of Drs. F. J. Cotton, F. P. Denny, and H. D. Arnold, was appointed on May 24, 1901, who showed the social possibilities of the Library by starting a series of Smoke Talks on June 15, 1901, at which Dr. C. J. Blake gave a short talk on "Libraries" and "Medical Reminiscences"; Dr. Malcolm Storer described some of the medals in the Storer Collection; and Dr. J. W. Courtney read an amusing sketch, "The Journalistic Physician." The next one was on November 7, when Drs. Fitz, G. B. Shattuck, and R. W. Lovett told of the uses of the Library to the practitioner, and Dr. E. O. Otis gave an account of the International Congress for Tuberculosis in London. A most interesting

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paper on "Thomas Linacre" was read by Dr. William Osler in December, and in the following May, 1902, Dr. G. H. Monks gave a talk on "Old-Time Surgeons," with stereopticon views, which was much enjoyed.

In the Twenty-Sixth Annual Report for 1901 is the list of books added to the Library, 1900–1901; this was the first such list ever issued to our members. Beginning with December, 1907, regular monthly accession Bulletins have been sent out, except during the summer months, printed on stiffish paper of uniform size so that they can be easily filed for reference. These give an idea of the more important recent publications received, but tell nothing of the great number of older volumes, reports, catalogues and unusual items which are sent to us. In this same Twenty-Sixth Report appears the first List of our Members ever published and also the first List of Officers Past and Present.

In February, 1901, the St. Botolph Street lot was sold for $22,500. This was bought in 1887 for $15,000 and had been vacant ever since.

The acoustics of John Ware Hall not proving satisfactory, Prof. Sabine of Harvard University was called in and suggested changes which resulted in marked improvement. On the end of the hall opposite the Speaker's desk a framework of wood was constructed several inches from the solid

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wall of the building. On this was stretched felting, and the whole painted in harmony with the decoration of the room. This soft, yielding structure broke up the tendency to echo and confusion of sounds, and was considered a great success, not being noticeable in appearance.

The Library was proving a great magnet and attracting to itself collections of books and journals which had hitherto been held back by their owners, knowing that the Boylston Place building was full to overflowing and could not offer protection against fire. The filling-up process naturally caused members of the Committee to look to the possibilities for expansion, and when they learned in February, 1903, that some one was planning to buy the vacant lot next us on the south and put up a residence, a meeting was called to consider what steps, if any, should be taken to protect ourselves. This was the only land available for us, and it was thought advisable to appoint a Committee to arrange, if possible, for a syndicate to purchase the land, giving the Library an option on it for a term of years. Drs. J. C. Warren and J. W. Farlow were appointed a Committee.

On February 19, 1903, the Committee reported that they had held a number of conferences with business men, who advised that the best plan was for the Library to purchase the lot now and

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raise the money for its purchase by a mortgage. This seemed wise to the Executive Committee, who voted in favor of purchasing the land for $24,000, and this was ratified by a vote of the Library at a Special Meeting held on February 28, 1903.

This lot has proved most valuable, the front of it being now covered with a basement stack-building holding 30,000 volumes [Plate XXVI]. It is of such construction as to be able to support a high stack-building which it is hoped can be built in the near future.

On April 30, 1902, a communication from Dr. B. Joy Jeffries, enclosing a letter from President Eliot, concerning the books of his father's library then in Harvard College Library, was read and referred to the Library Committee. On June 13, 1902, a letter was received from Mr. W. C. Lane, Librarian of Harvard College offering to deposit temporarily the medical books in that Library with the Boston Medical Library provided the latter would furnish shelf room. This was accepted and shelves put up in the rear upper hall, to hold the 3200 books, 523 volumes of periodicals, and pamphlets and journals which were received. These books were the subject of further discussion in 1912 and I shall refer to them later.[1]

[1] See page 187.

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VARIOUS HAPPENINGS OF IMPORTANCE

On May 21, 1903, a communication was received from the Trustees of the Robert Charles Billings estate notifying the Committee of the gift to the Library of the sum of $50,000, of which $10,000 was to be set aside as a permanent fund in memory of Mr. Billings, the income to be devoted to the purchase of books, the remainder of the bequest to be used for paying the debts of the Library. The Executive Committee acknowledged with grateful thanks the gift of Mr. Billings.

Dr. Osler gave to the Library the greater part of his fee for delivering the Ingersoll lecture on "Science and Immortality" at Cambridge, and with this were purchased show-cases for use in Holmes Hall [Plate XV].

Among our autograph letters I found the following from Dr. Morrill Wyman, dated November 1, 1878, addressed to Dr. Chadwick:

"You once asked me for the deposit of my Tiedemann Library. I was obliged to decline because it is the only medical library in Cambridge to which I have access; if I lived in Boston you should have it.

Sincerely yours,
M. WYMAN"

A glance at the plan of the Medical Library rooms in Hamilton Place [Plate V] at that time

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will show that probably Dr. Wyman did not consider them a suitable place for a collection of four thousand volumes. It shows also the unbounded zeal and imagination of Dr. Chadwick, who foresaw the future development of the Library and was ready to ask for and accept anything medical even before the means for looking after it had been obtained. When the Library moved to Boylston Place, Dr. Wyman was again approached by Dr. Chadwick, who was told that the building was not fireproof, and that he must wait until he could furnish a safe place for valuable books.

When the Cambridge Public Library was founded, Dr. Wyman (seeing no hope from the Boston Medical Library) gave his books to the former. The collection had been purchased by him from the family of the late Prof. F. Tiedemann of Heidelberg, and consisted of about four thousand books and an equal number of pamphlets relating to Anatomy, Physiology, Zoölogy, and early medicine, before the middle of the last century.

The Cambridge Public Library was not at all enthusiastic about the gift, which was more or less of a white elephant, — taking up needed space and never called for, — and after Dr. Wyman's death was glad to find another resting place for it. In December, 1903, the Trustees sent a letter to the Boston Medical Library offering the books

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as a deposit, the title to them to remain with the Cambridge Library and the books to be returned on written request of the Trustees.

The collection was accepted by the Medical Library and installed on shelves on three sides of the rear upper hall. It contains many valuable books and monographs of interest to students of medical history, especially in what relates to comparative anatomy and physiology. Its value to a general, municipal library is *nil*, and the chances of its ever being recalled are so slight that I think we can consider it a permanent deposit.

The most notable event of the year 1904 was the bequest to the Library of $150,000 by the will of Mrs. Sarah E. Potter. The nineteenth clause of her will gives the conditions of this bequest, as follows: "It is my wish and purpose to establish in the City of Boston an enduring memorial to the memory of my late husband, Warren B. Potter, and in furtherance of said purpose I have made a gift of money to the Boston Medical Library, to enable it to begin the erection in said Boston of a suitable building adapted for a Medical Library and for meetings of the various medical societies and for other uses of said corporation, and now, to further carry out said wish and purpose, I give and bequeath to the said Boston Medical Library the sum of

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$150,000, to be applied to the completion or enlargement of such building; provided, however, that such portion of said money as may be deemed by the officers of said corporation requisite and proper may be applied to the interior fitting and furnishing of said building and to the maintenance of its library. This bequest, however, is upon the condition that such building be called the 'Warren B. Potter Memorial' and be so designated by a bronze tablet suitably inscribed and placed in a conspicuous position upon the outside front of said building, and maintained in such position so long as said building shall be owned or occupied by said corporation." The money was paid over to the Library in 1907 and amounted to nearly $159,000. The bronze memorial tablet was placed on the front of the building on the outside of the balcony over the front door. This bequest was most welcome, coming as it did at a time when the increasing expenses of running the new building were causing much concern to the Committee.

By the sudden death, in September, 1905, of Dr. Chadwick, the Library lost its most devoted friend, its most zealous, untiring worker. The whole Library was his monument, and while it remains, the name of James Read Chadwick should be cherished as one of the greatest benefactors of the medical profession of Boston.

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VARIOUS HAPPENINGS OF IMPORTANCE

The Librarian's Report was prepared by Dr. J. W. Farlow, Chairman of the Library Committee, and read at the Annual Meeting November 14, 1905. Later in the evening he was chosen Librarian.

The Report spoke of the great number of books and journals sent to the Medical Library by the various libraries of Boston and vicinity which were glad to be rid of the expense of caring for books which were rarely consulted. A large number of duplicates were naturally thus received by the Librarian, requiring much work to arrange, compare and catalogue them. This was the first year under the new Constitution and By-laws and there had been large audiences at the Medical Meetings in John Ware Hall. Dr. F. C. Martin had presented to the Library the valuable collection of works on Vaccination and Small Pox formerly belonging to his father, the late Dr. H. A. Martin. From Dr. O. F. Wadsworth had been received the larger part of his Ophthalmological Library, and from Dr. Gustavus Hay many periodicals on Ophthalmology. Dr. G. O. Clark was the donor of gynecological literature from the late Dr. G. J. Engelmann, and Dr. Warren had sent another instalment from the library of his father and grandfather. The manuscript of Dr. Holmes' "Tribute to the memory of Dr. Henry J. Bigelow" was presented by Dr. A. N. Blodgett. More books and autographs had been

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given by Drs. F. C. and G. B. Shattuck. The Report closed with an appreciation of the thirty years of untiring devotion of Dr. Chadwick to the Library and a tribute to what he had done, not only for Boston but for medical libraries throughout the country.

Memorial addresses were made by Dr. C. J. Blake and Dr. J. G. Mumford, eulogistic of his great service to the Library and thus to the Profession.

It was VOTED: To call the Periodical Room the "Chadwick Periodical Room," and a Committee consisting of Drs. Burrage, C. J. Blake, Mumford, C. M. Green, and E. B. Young was appointed to consider the question of a Memorial to Dr. Chadwick. As a result, a fund was raised, the income of which is used for the purchase of periodicals, and a bronze tablet to his memory by R. E. Brooks was placed in Holmes Hall. A portrait of him by Wilton Lockwood, loaned by the Chadwick family, was hung temporarily in the Periodical Room. This was removed later, and in 1912 a copy was painted by Wilton Lockwood, paid for by subscription among the members, — the frame the gift of the artist, — and hung in the Chadwick Periodical Room.

The Public Library was very crowded in the last few years of its stay in Boylston Street opposite the Common and had little money or desire

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for the extension of its Medical Section, which naturally tended to lose its usefulness as a modern, up-to-date library. The report of an Examining Committee to the Trustees in 1892 says that on account of the proximity of the Public Library to the Medical Library, it did not seem wise for the former to continue to add to its medical section; a sentiment with which the Trustees agreed. Not until we were in our present building, however, did we have the space to accommodate an addition of 10,000 books, nor did the Public Library feel that we were sufficiently fire proof.

In 1905 notice was received from the Trustees of the Public Library of their willingness to deposit with us such of their medical books as we might select. They would also turn over to us nearly all their medical periodicals on condition that we consent to keep a file of each journal current on our shelves, reserving for themselves only the journals of a general scientific character. Space was needed, and the increase in the number of important, special, medical journals made it clear to the Trustees that the Medical Library was really the institution to look after this increasing mass of medical literature. In the Annual Report of the Trustees for 1905–06 is the following:

"By an arrangement made with the Boston Medical Library, the Trustees have constituted that Library a deposit station, and have sanctioned the ultimate removal for deposit there of

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such medical works now in the Central Library as in the judgment both of the Trustees and of the Boston Medical Library can wisely be thus deposited. No control of the books is relinquished, and they are to be kept open to the use of the same persons who would be entitled to use them if they remained at the Central Library, the object of establishing this deposit being to avoid the duplication of medical works, especially books of a class which are not in popular demand, thus securing the advantage that those who desire to consult works of this character will find the largest collection under one roof. The books and periodicals of which the transfer has been authorized are chiefly those of an especially scientific character, which are not often consulted except by professional readers."

The selection of the books and periodicals needed by the Medical Library was a slow process, and the actual transfer continued over a number of years. Beginning in 1906 with fifty-one volumes and several hundred periodicals, the number had risen to over 11,000 when our Annual Report for 1917 was issued. The Public Library has retired from the medical business and its medical cards are stamped, "This book may be consulted at the Boston Medical Library." These books may be taken out of the Medical Library by holders of Public Library cards, whether they are members of the Medical Library or not.

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VII

Attempt to Form an Academy of Medicine — First Medical Meetings Held by the Library

THE new building with its larger halls, the numerous societies deciding to hold their meetings there, the great growth in the number and importance of the accessions, all called attention to the possibility of a still greater use of the Library in its relation to the medical profession at large and to the general public.

There had been a desire to enlarge the influence of the Library in the community, and give authority to its suggestions and opinions on matters of public interest, such as hygiene, sanitation, epidemics, and the like. At the Dedication of the new building in 1901, it was urged by several of the speakers that the formation of an Academy of Medicine was the next important step to be taken. Dr. J. G. Mumford had read a paper on a "Proposed Boston Academy of Medicine," before the Warren Club, which was published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, January

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30, 1902, and in the circular dated March, 1900, sent out as an appeal for funds for the new building, Dr. Cheever had said that the new building was to be for an Academy of Medicine. It had been a constant theme with Dr. Chadwick that there should be developed out of the members of the Library a body similar to academies in other cities or countries, whose headquarters should be the new Library building. There were apparently no arguments against it, and it merely remained to work out the details of a plan, which all favored in a general way.

On April 23, 1902, a letter was received from a Committee of the Medical Improvement Society suggesting co-operation on the part of the Library in steps towards the formation of an Academy of Medicine, and a Committee of three (Drs. Cheever, Prince, and Wadsworth) was appointed to confer with the Committee of the Improvement Society.

It was decided that the Medical Library should hold six or more Medical Meetings during the year, and the Improvement Society should discontinue its meetings for a year.[1] Drs. Burrage and Cotton (the latter recently elected to the Executive Committee in place of Dr. Homans) were appointed a sub-committee to arrange the details.

The sub-committee reported in January, 1903,

[1] See page 166.

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suggesting a plan for the formation of an Academy. It was VOTED: That while the Executive Committee looks with favor upon the plan presented for the formation of an Academy, it is not yet prepared to commit itself to a definite opinion, but will take the whole plan under consideration for later action.

The Improvement Society through a committee consisting of Drs. J. G. Mumford, W. L. Burrage, H. D. Arnold, J. J. Putnam, and J. C. Munro prepared a carefully worked-out plan with a printed pamphlet giving details for the proposed union of that Society with the Medical Library and the formation of an Academy.

The objects of the Academy were to be:

1. To maintain a Medical Library which shall be a home for the Medical Profession of Greater Boston, i.e., the region included in a circle with a radius of ten miles from the State House.
2. To conduct medical meetings.
3. To conduct a directory for nurses.
4. To consider all medical questions affecting the public.

Members of the Massachusetts Medical Society living in Greater Boston were to be eligible to membership if approved by the Council. A Council of twenty, including the officers of the Academy, was to have charge of the affairs of the Society.

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This Report dated March 9, 1903, was presented to the Medical Library, and Drs. Prince, C. P. Putnam, and Farlow were appointed on April 15, 1903, a Committee to confer with the Improvement Society on the subject, including a statement of "ways and means."

Dr. Prince for the Committee, presented a plan for the formation of an Academy, which after some modification, was adopted by the Executive Committee and Dr. Wadsworth was asked to draw up a Constitution and By-laws in accordance with this scheme. On June 1, 1903, the Medical Improvement Society VOTED: To unite with the Medical Library to form an Academy on lines similar to the plan presented by the Executive Committee of the Medical Library; the Treasurer was authorized to transfer the funds of the Society, except the Life Membership Fund, to the proposed Academy when it is created; and it was resolved to suspend its scientific meetings indefinitely.

A Special Meeting of the Library was called on June 12, 1903, to consider the question of taking action to change the title and enlarge the functions of the Library, when it was VOTED: That the Clerk be directed to apply to the Commissioner of Corporations for authority to change the title to "Boston Medical Library and Academy of Medicine" and to enlarge its functions so that it may maintain a library of medicine and the

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allied sciences, and promote the science and art of medicine, conduct medical meetings, aid public opinion on questions of hygiene, sanitation and other matters affecting the public health, conduct a directory for nurses, and promote social intercourse among the members of the medical profession. The project had seemed so certain of being carried into effect, that the original design of the "Lamb" book plate, which was made at this time in accordance with Dr. Chadwick's suggestions, had the word "Academia" in the frame. This was changed to "Bibliotheca" when the plans for an Academy were laid on the table.[1]

At the Annual Meeting in November 1903, the Clerk gave the result of his conference with the Commissioner of Corporations, who had reported that it would be necessary to have the affirmative vote of every member of the corporation in order to change the title and functions. This not being deemed feasible, it was then VOTED: That the Executive Committee be authorized to make application to the Legislature to change the title and enlarge the functions so that it may maintain a library, conduct medical meetings, aid public opinion on matters affecting the public health, conduct a directory for nurses, and promote social intercourse among the members of the medical profession. The Clerk was instructed to obtain legal advice as to the best form of bill to be

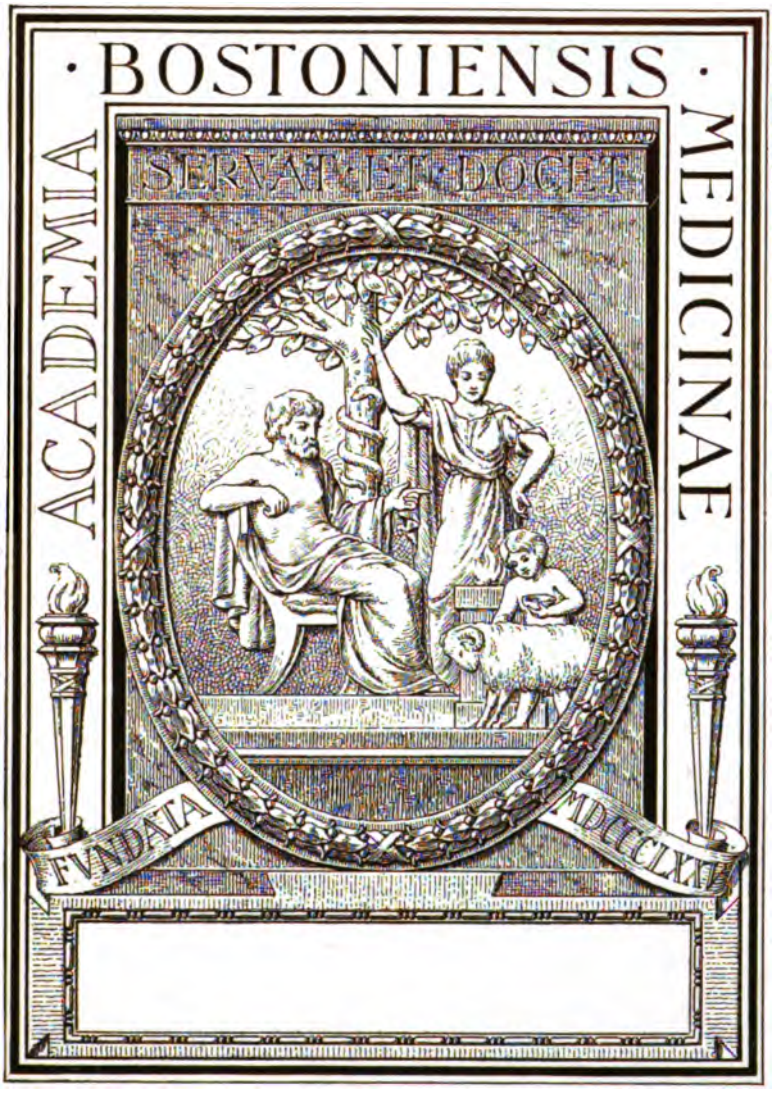
[1] See Plate XXV.

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presented to the Legislature to accomplish the suggested change in the charter and to have such a bill prepared.

The subject presented many practical difficulties, not the least of which were financial. The expense of running the Library in its new quarters was greatly increased and it was necessary to have more members or raise the dues or both. In the old building the dues had been six dollars — increased to ten on removal to the Fenway, — and it was not thought wise to raise them further. The Committee on increasing membership did not see any likelihood of being able to add materially to the number of members, and the Treasurer foresaw the great probability of our receipts being insufficient to meet our increasing expenses. One of the arguments in favor of an Academy had been the predicted increased weight of its authority in matters where its opinion was requested. This, however, implied restriction in membership and a higher standard for admission in order to form a body whose prestige would depend on the recognized superior qualifications of its members. A small Society, no matter how select its membership, if not sufficiently endowed, could not meet the expense of carrying on the Library in its new quarters. At the time when the question was under discussion, the Library had practically no endowment as far as general expenses were concerned and any step which

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XXV — THE "ACADEMY" BOOK PLATE

The original design showing change from *Academia* to *Bibliotheca*

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endangered the prosperity of the Library was not to be considered.

This was not proving to be the simple matter that had been anticipated when the agitation for enlarged usefulness of the Library was started. The repeal of a charter that had been in existence for twenty-six years, and under which the Library had already reached its high state of development, was not to be undertaken unless there were absolute surety that the question of past and future gifts and bequests to the Library would not be affected adversely. The Executive Committee was not convinced that the proposed change was a prudent one, and on January 25, 1904, voted unanimously to lay on the table the question of petitioning the Legislature for a change of title and charter.

It was coming to be thought that no such radical step was necessary in order to enlarge the usefulness of the Library, but that a change of By-laws, allowing its members a larger participation in the management of the Library, and also the creation of committees which should seek co-operation with already existing societies in the matter of holding large and influential medical meetings was possible and would bring about the desired result. The old By-laws were repealed and a new set, in harmony with this thought, adopted on May 13, 1904. The outcome has been all that was wished for, and no further mention of an Academy has been heard.

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THE BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

The Executive Committee received a proposal in June, 1902, from the Medical Improvement Society in reference to holding Medical Meetings and it was VOTED: That in accordance with the proposal of a Committee of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement which was adopted by said Society on May 23, 1902, the Boston Medical Library hold six or more medical meetings during the coming year and that the President appoint a sub-committee of this Executive Committee, which shall have authority to arrange the details of the plan. Drs. Burrage and Cotton (the latter recently elected to the Executive Committee) were made the sub-committee and arranged a series of six meetings which were held in John Ware Hall and proved most successful. The Medical Improvement Society voted to discontinue its meetings for a year.[1]

The following explanatory Circular was sent out:

Medical Meetings to be held under the Auspices of the Boston Medical Library

"The undersigned Committee have been appointed by the Boston Medical Library to arrange for a series of six or more medical meetings to be held during the next eight months.

"These meetings are not intended to supplant

[1] See page 160.

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the meetings of the special societies, but to bring together the medical men of Greater Boston to hear and discuss papers on general or special topics which are of interest to the whole profession.

"To further this object the Boston Society for Medical Improvement has suspended its meetings for a year.

"The general plan is as follows: — Meetings will be held at the Medical Library on the third Mondays of November, December, January, February, March, and May.

"It is intended to send out notices containing programs of these meetings to the members of the Massachusetts Medical Society in Boston. Notices of the meetings will appear in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal;* and should any others to whom this statement comes wish to receive notices of the meetings their names will, on request to the Secretary, be put upon the mailing list.

"The meetings are to consist of the reading of papers not over twenty minutes each to deliver, case reports of not over ten minutes each, and presentation of pathological specimens, patients, and instruments, with discussions limited to five minutes for each speaker.

"As this is a trial year, it is to be hoped that many papers will be sent in, and that the profession at large will give the Committee their hearty co-operation. Those wishing to present

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papers are requested to communicate with some member of the Committee.

W. T. COUNCILMAN, *Chairman*
A. K. STONE, *Secretary*
E. H. BRADFORD
W. L. BURRAGE
J. G. MUMFORD
H. D. ARNOLD
F. J. COTTON
E. A. DARLING

October, 1902

The first regular Medical Meeting of the Library was on November 17, 1902. Dr. William T. Councilman presided and Dr. A. K. Stone was Secretary. After a Statement by the President, the following papers were read:

Dr. C. F. PAINTER: *Malignancy of Bone Tuberculosis.*

Dr. E. H. NICHOLS: *Tubercular Disease in Bone.*

Dr. GOLDTHWAIT: *Climatic Treatment of Bone and Joint Diseases.*

Dr. F. S. WATSON: *Clinical Observations on the value of the Phloridzin Test in estimating the capacity of Renal Function.*

Dr. E. P. JOSLIN: *Errors in estimating Urea by Squibbs Apparatus.*

Dr. W. T. BAILEY: *Cryoscopy.*

———*Demonstration of Blood from case of Pernicious Anaemia.*

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The Second Meeting, on December 15, 1902, was a *Symposium on Typhoid Fever*, with demonstrations of lesions, tests, etc.

Dr. George G. Sears described the Fever as seen at the City Hospital in 1902.

Dr. Vickery gave some of the points of interest in cases seen in the summer of 1902.

Dr. J. T. G. Nichols spoke on Typhoid as seen in private practice; Dr. J. H. Pratt on Paratyphoid and Dr. J. C. Munro on the Clinical Diagnosis of Perforation. Dr. H. C. Ernst explained Typhoid Immunity, Dr. M. W. Richardson described the Typhoid Bacillus in the Urine and Sputum, and Dr. F. C. Shattuck gave directions for the Dietetic Management of the disease.

The Third Meeting was on January 19, 1903.

Dr. G. W. Crile: Methods of Control in Blood Pressure.

Dr. Harvey Cushing: Clinical Value of Blood Pressure Observations. Discussion by Dr. W. T. Porter, Dr. J. M. Jackson, Dr. R. C. Cabot.

Dr. F. B. Lund: Interscapulo-Thoracic Amputation for Sarcoma of the Median Nerve.

The Fourth Meeting, February 23, 1903.

Dr. C. W. Townsend: Cream for Home Modification of Milk.

Drs. P. P. Staples and E. A. Darling: Variation in the composition of Human Milk.

Dr. Theobald Smith: Foot and Mouth Disease.

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Dr. A. H. Wentworth: Foot and Mouth Disease in Children.

Dr. E. H. Bradford: Congenital Dislocation of the Hip.

The Fifth Meeting, April 6, 1903.

Dr. Allen Greenwood: Albumimuric Retinitis.

Dr. F. Pfaff: Remarks on Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Dr. Charles Harrington: Therapeutic and nutritive value of foods for the sick.

Dr. C. H. Williams: Need of Supplementary Lantern Tests for proper examination of Color Perception. Demonstration of new lantern.

The Sixth Meeting was May 4, 1903.

Pathology and Etiology of Smallpox.

Dr. Ralph L. Thomson: The Bacteriolytic Complement Content of the Blood Serum in Variola.

Dr. E. E. Tyzzer: Experimental Studies in Vaccinia.

Dr. William T. Councilman: The Skin Lesions in Variola.

There were 193 present at this meeting, the previous ones had also had large audiences, and every one was very enthusiastic. A month later, June 25, 1903, the Executive Committee VOTED: That Drs. Burrage and Cotton be a sub-committee to arrange for further medical meetings similar to those of last year, without expense to the Library. Dr. Cotton reported on October 23, 1903, that

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the Medical Improvement Society was not disposed to furnish money for such meetings, but had voted to resume its own meetings and that, therefore, it was inexpedient for the Library to hold meetings that year, and none were held.

In May 1904, the new By-laws went into effect, and a Committee on Medical and Social Meetings was elected with Dr. George W. Gay as Chairman, Dr. F. B. Lund and Dr. E. P. Joslin the other members. Remembering that the six Medical Meetings of the Library in 1902–03 had been very successful and that there had been no similar meetings in 1903–04 owing to the unwillingness of the Medical Improvement Society to continue them, Dr. Gay's Committee arranged a co-operation or union of the Medical Library and the Suffolk District Society, which was then holding small meetings at the Library. This union, thanks to the interest and energy of Dr. Gay's Committee, to whom a vote of thanks was given, was most successful in getting good speakers who attracted large audiences for the season 1904–05.

There were thirteen meetings held in John Ware Hall in accordance with the following

PROGRAMME

Nov. 16. (169 present) Nephritis: — Pathology. Prof. Councilman.
Clinical examinations of urine. Prof. Wood.

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Diagnosis. Dr. Richard C. Cabot.

Nov. 30. (197 present) Ptosis of the Abdominal Organs, with Special Reference to the Kidney. Discussion.

Dec. 7. (184 present) The Humane Treatment of Malignant Disease from a Surgical Point of View. Dr. John C. Munro.

Dec. 21. (230 present) Nephritis:—Medical Treatment. Prof. Pfaff.

Surgical Treatment. Dr. Paul Thorndike.

Prognosis. Dr. Frank Wells.

Jan. 4. (173 present). General Treatment of Appendicitis. Discussion.

Jan. 11. (246 present) Medical Charity. Dr. George W. Gay.

Jan. 25. (145 present) A Study of the Objective Methods of Diagnosis of the Stomach in a Medico-Surgical Clinic, with Report of Cases. Dr. Hewes.

Results of Surgical Treatment of Benign Diseases of the Stomach. Dr. Mumford.

Feb. 1. (105 present) Results of Operative Treatment of Cancer in and about the Mouth. Discussion.

Feb. 11. (154 present) Physiological Economy of Nutrition. Prof. R. H. Chittenden.

Feb. 15. (125 present) Recent Work on Etiology of Disease. Prof. Councilman.

March 1. (106 present) The Surgery of Renal and Ureteral Calculi. Discussion.

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FIRST MEDICAL MEETINGS

March 8. (110 present) The Present State of Opinion concerning Sewer Gas and its Effects. Prof. W. T. Sedgwick.

Nine Years Experience in the Treatment of Diphtheria with Antitoxine at the Boston City Hospital. Dr. McCollom.

April 5. (112 present) Cerebral and Spinal Surgery. Discussion.

(Average attendance 158)

Light refreshments after each meeting

Before the meetings were started in 1904 the Committee on Membership and Elections drew up "an invitation to join the Library" which was sent out in October together with the advance Programme of the meetings. I append a copy of this "invitation" to show how the Committees worked together:

BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

"You are invited to become a member of the Boston Medical Library. The Library has recently extended its functions and will hold Medical Meetings, at which will be discussed subjects of general interest to the medical profession.

"The object is to unite in one body the best members of the profession of Greater Boston; and, as far as possible, of the whole State. This will be an 'Academy of Medicine.'

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"The meetings will furnish opportunities to communicate to large numbers of the profession the best medical thought not only of our own community, but of other medical centres.

"This winter there will be held at the Medical Library General Meetings devoted to subjects of interest to the profession at large; in addition to these General Meetings there will be a series of meetings at the Library at which subjects of special interest will be taken up and considered in detail. The Programme, as far as completed, is enclosed. Membership is open to all members of the Massachusetts Medical Society. There are two classes of members: — Fellows and Associates. Any member of the Massachusetts Medical Society is eligible to become a Fellow. This gives him the fullest privileges of the Library, of the Medical Meetings, and he has the right to vote. An Associate has limited privileges of the Library, has equal privileges of the Medical Meetings, but has no vote in the Society. Members living outside of that part of the Suffolk District of the Massachusetts Medical Society included in Boston proper, and those who have been graduated in medicine less than five years, may become Fellows or Associates as they prefer.

"The dues for Fellows are $10, for Associates $5 per annum.

"Remember that increased membership means not only added benefit to yourself, but better

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co-operation on the part of the profession. It will also strengthen the Medical Library, an institution which has done much for the profession already, and is looking forward to a wider field of usefulness.

"You are cordially invited to become a member, and it is earnestly hoped you will do so at once. The Annual Meeting comes on the second Tuesday of November. Dues do not begin until that time.

"For further information and for admission to membership, apply to the Committee on Membership and Elections, whose names are given below.

"A. K. Stone, M.D.
H. D. Arnold, M.D.
J. G. Mumford, M.D.
F. P. Denny, M.D.
R. H. Vose, M.D."

October, 1904

The success of these conjoint meetings has continued, and a similar series has been given every winter since then under the charge of the Committee on Medical and Social Meetings, with great satisfaction to all.

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VIII

Numerous Accessions — Need of Stack Building

DR. CHEEVER, who had held the office of President since 1896, declined a re-election and Dr. George B. Shattuck was elected in his place in 1906.

Contributions of books and journals continued to pour in, among others a fine collection of works on Ophthalmology, including a number of monographs, with autographs, from Dr. Hasket Derby. Dr. S. G. Webber had made a card catalogue with references to Neurological subjects covering twenty-five years. He gave this to the Library, where it could be of use to any one interested in Neurology. Another important gift was from Dr. J. C. White, a large portion of his Dermatological Library, making that section of the Library unusually complete.

The Boston Orthopedic Club arranged in 1907 to deposit in the Library a large number of X-ray plates and also a collection of reprints and mono-

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graphs on orthopedic subjects which they are gathering from all parts of the medical world. They help supply deficiencies and make recommendations as to books and journals to be added to our shelves. Dr. C. F. Painter supplemented this by a series of annual gifts of money with which to purchase theses on the same subjects.

In December, 1907, certain employees of the Library were authorized to receive lists of operations from the hospitals and answer telephone inquiries with regard to them. Lists were supposed to be sent by mail to the Library to be put on the bulletin board. This created a certain amount of interest for a while, but it soon died a natural death, for the lists were either not telephoned at all, or arrived by mail after the operations were over.

The new building on which we had congratulated ourselves, was getting to be relatively just as inadequate for our books as was the old one, and in 1908 three rooms in the basement were fitted with shelves, and on the vacant lot next to us we erected, at an expense of $5600, a one story basement stack-room fifteen feet high [Plate XXVI], capable of accommodating 30,000 volumes, as many as were brought from the Boylston Place building at the time of the removal. These stacks were soon nearly filled, to our sorrow as well as our pleasure.

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XXVI—THE FENWAY BUILDING

THIS plate shows the ront of the basement stack-building, on the land bought in 1903, between the original library building and the house of Mr. R. S. Peabody. Beyond the Library, on the corner of Boylston Street, is the building of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

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XXVI — THE FENWAY BUILDING

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NUMEROUS ACCESSIONS

In order to show to our members and others some of the valuable books in the Library, there was an exhibition in Holmes Hall of books relating to the History of Medicine, arranged according to epochs, from the time of Hippocrates to the nineteenth century. Owing to lack of space in the show-cases, only a limited number could be shown at a time, and the exhibits were changed every two weeks. This was under the charge of Dr. E. C. Streeter, who very generously added many gems from his own private library. To him the Library was indebted also for starting and contributing to a "Classical Book Fund," the income to be used for the purchase of Medical Classics. He gave two hundred and fifty dollars on condition that an equal amount be raised by the Library, which was done.

Dr. E. H. Brigham, Assistant Librarian [Plate XXVII], after thirty-four years of loyal and devoted service, tendered his resignation. He had been closely identified with the development of the Library from its small beginning in 1875 up to its then flourishing condition in 1909. He was appointed Library Curator, a position which he still (1918) holds, and a fund of about $10,000 was raised by a committee of which Dr. J. C. Warren was Chairman. The following copy of the circular explains the purpose of the fund:

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THE BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

CIRCULAR

BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY
8 *The Fenway*

September 1*st*, 1909

Dear Sir:

"At the next Annual Meeting of the Library our Assistant Librarian, Dr. Edwin Howard Brigham, will tender his resignation; illness necessitates this step on his part and compels the Corporation to accept it.

"Dr. Brigham has served the Library as Assistant Librarian without interruption since its foundation, thirty-four years ago. His whole time has been devoted to the work and he has given his best services for its development, in spite of the fact that the salary which the Library has been able to pay him has scarcely sufficed for the support of his family and has permitted no accumulation for his advancing years.

"It seems fitting, therefore, that the members of the Library and such of the medical public as have profited by his services should bear witness to their appreciation in some substantial manner.

"The undersigned have been appointed a Committee to receive contributions for this purpose. It is proposed to raise a fund of $10,000, the income to be paid to Dr. and Mrs. Brigham during their lives and the principal to revert to the

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XXVII — Dr. EDWIN HOWARD BRIGHAM

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Library as a memorial to be known as the Edwin Howard Brigham book fund.

"Yours respectfully,

J. COLLINS WARREN, M.D., *Chairman*
S. B. WOODWARD, M.D.
W. H. PRESCOTT, M.D.
DAVID CHEEVER, M.D."

The Library had been fortunate in retaining the services of some of its most important members, who had held office continuously since the beginning in 1875. Dr. O. F. Wadsworth, Clerk and later Secretary of the Corporation for nearly thirty-six years, tendered his resignation in May 1911, owing to ill health, and it was accepted with great regret. He had been a most devoted, painstaking, and exemplary officer, and the Secretary's Records as kept by him are models of accuracy and evidence of conscientious thoroughness. Dr. Walter L. Burrage was elected to the place left vacant. Dr. Wadsworth's son, Dr. Richard G. Wadsworth, was elected to the Committee on Library and Finance and assigned to the House Committee, of which he was later chairman.

At the Van den Corput sale in Amsterdam in 1911 we bought eighty-three volumes on the history of medicine, twelve on vaccination and several hundred monographs and theses; and at

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the Hunt sale we secured over a thousand volumes and pamphlets and also two hundred and twenty portraits. In Leipsic we were able to purchase at a moderate price a large collection of theses, about thirty thousand. The family of Dr. J. H. Denny sent us a fine collection of monographs on nervous and mental diseases and a similar collection was received from Dr. J. J. Putnam.

A new feature was introduced at the Annual Meeting in 1911: a smoke talk and refreshments after the business meeting. Dr. G. B. Magrath, Medical Examiner for Suffolk County, gave a talk illustrated by the stereopticon, on the "Massachusetts System of Medico-legal Inquiry," at which sixty-six members were present. This custom has been followed at each subsequent meeting and has proved most satisfactory. The following year Dr. Francis P. McCarthy gave an illustrated talk on "Sanitation in Panama."

Two bequests were received in 1912, the first under the will of Mary Upham Johnson, of one thousand dollars to found the William Otis Johnson Fund, the income to be used for the purchase of books on Surgery. The other was the bequest of ten thousand dollars from the late Dr. O. F. Wadsworth to form the Oliver Fairfield Wadsworth Fund, the income to be applied for the purchase of books. In addition to this, Dr. Wadsworth gave the Library the remainder of his books on Ophthalmology.

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NUMEROUS ACCESSIONS

Up to 1912 the books, periodicals, pictures, and other contents of the Library had been valued at $15,000, a sum entirely inadequate in recent years. A committee appointed to determine a valuation more nearly correct reported on April 12, 1912, that, in their opinion, the books, periodicals, pamphlets, pictures, medals, furnishings and miscellaneous belongings of the Library should be valued at $100,000, and an expert builder estimated the building itself to be worth $141,511.

At the time of the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society in June 1912, there was an exhibition in Holmes Hall of books and documents relating to the history of the Society and also books written by members of the Society and by members of the Library. This proved to be of great interest and served to call attention to the Library as a proper depository for all similar material and to the fact that the Library is desirous of getting as complete a collection as possible of everything relating to the history of Medicine in Massachusetts. In August 1912, we loaned to the International Otological Congress for exhibition at its meeting then being held in Boston, a large number of books and pamphlets on Otology written by American physicians.

The Library was filling up at so rapid a rate,

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its stacks were so inadequate, its work rooms so crowded with material waiting to be examined and catalogued, that Dr. Morton Prince called the attention of the Committee on Library and Finance anew to the crowded conditions which made the work of the employees extremely difficult, and it was VOTED: That the House and Library Committees with the Treasurer be made a Special Committee to consider the subject and report.

The Committee reported on December 16, 1912, in favor of a new stack-building to be formed by extending the present basement stack-building along the vacant land, bought in 1903, next to Mr. R. S. Peabody's house, to the alleyway in the rear; carrying this up as high as the law permits; making a new periodical room on the front on a level with and leading out of Holmes Hall; the new stacks to be reached by a covered bridge leading from the corridor near the present catalogue room. Estimates were obtained in accordance with plans drawn up by Bigelow & Wadsworth, Architects, for a structure intended to hold 200,000 volumes, to cost about $75,000.

A Committee of fifteen was appointed by the President, December 26, 1913, to raise funds. Dr. Morton Prince was made Chairman, but on account of absence was obliged to resign and Dr. Augustus Thorndike took his place. The European War, with its numerous calls for charity,

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made it an unfavorable time to try to raise money for an addition to a library, but an attempt was made, with Dr. G. H. Monks as Chairman of the Committee. About $10,000 were raised, when the probable entrance of the United States into the war brought to an end for the present all efforts to secure further contributions. Dr. J. J. Minot, Treasurer of the Fund, purchased Liberty Bonds with the money that had been paid in, and is prepared to receive any other contributions that may be sent to him. The object is a most worthy one, but the outlook for a new building in the immediate future is not favorable.

A letter to the Librarian from Prof. A. C. Coolidge, Director of the Harvard University Library, was presented to the Committee on Library and Finance on April 21, 1913, suggesting that the Boston Medical Library combine with the Harvard Medical School Library in establishing a centre of medical literature in the immediate neighborhood of the School, thus obviating a duplication of effort. The President, Librarian, and Secretary were made a Committee to confer with a Committee of the Harvard Medical School on the subject. Drs. E. H. Bradford, E. P. Joslin, and Prof. Coolidge were the Committee from the Medical School.

On May 19, 1913, the Committee on the Proposed Union with the Harvard Medical School

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Library reported through Dr. Farlow, who read several letters and also a four-page typewritten letter, a copy of one that he had sent to Dr. J. C. Warren, setting forth his views on the question. On January 19, 1914, Dr. Farlow reported further, as a sub-committee on the relations with the Harvard Medical School Library, "As, apparently, the Harvard Medical School has nothing to offer to the Medical Library, the sub-committee will devote itself to preserving most friendly relations with the Medical School and will endeavor to avoid in future unnecessary duplication in the purchase by the Library and the Medical School of the same books." It has always been the wise policy of the Medical Library to maintain an independent position and avoid alliances with other institutions, medical or literary. A medical school library is necessarily of a very different type and has different aims from a library like the Boston Medical Library whose function is to serve the whole community, even those who do not believe in Medicine. There is need of both kinds of libraries, but their differences should be borne in mind as well as the similarity of some of their desires.

I have already referred to the Medical Books of the Harvard College Library which were deposited in the Boston Medical Library in 1902.[1]

[1] See page 150.

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NUMEROUS ACCESSIONS

On February 12, 1912, the Secretary read a letter from Mr. W. C. Lane, Librarian of Harvard College, to the Librarian, in which it was stated that the Harvard College Library would be glad to turn over to the Boston Medical Library nearly all of its books now in that Library, and would remove those that must go back to Cambridge.

A letter from Prof. A. C. Coolidge concerning the return of the Harvard College books now in the Medical Library was presented to the Committee on February 15, 1915, and at the same meeting all the correspondence on that subject since 1902 was read. It was VOTED: That the Librarian be empowered to confer with Prof. Coolidge and report.

On March 15, 1915, the Librarian reported on his conference with Prof. Coolidge. He said that he had also conferred with Dr. H. P. Walcott, one of the Fellows of Harvard College, on March 13, and had given him copies of the arguments that he had used at his conferences with Prof. Coolidge, and also copies of the letters written by the Librarian of Harvard College, Mr. Lane, to Dr. Chadwick and to Dr. Farlow, showing that the books should be left in the custody of the Medical Library. All these documents were to be submitted by Dr. Walcott to the Corporation of Harvard University. The full text of the correspondence was submitted to the Committee on

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Library and Finance by the Librarian, and it was VOTED: That the thanks of the Committee be extended to the Librarian for his valuable services. No further correspondence on the subject has been held.

A copy of the will of Miss Ellen Brewer Wyman of Newburyport was read at a meeting of the Committee on Library and Finance on May 19, 1913. The residue of her estate, after a few bequests, was given to the Boston Medical Library, — "one-half of the income to be used for the purchase of new foreign medical and surgical books, especially those treating of diseases of the eye; and the remaining half for binding volumes of periodicals." This was in memory of her father, the late Dr. Samuel W. Wyman, a physician of Newburyport, who died in 1867, and whose portrait, given to the Library in 1880, now hangs in John Ware Hall. The will was contested by several cousins, the interests of the Library being looked after by the President and the Secretary. The will was allowed in March 1914, and the real estate and cash turned over to the Library, about $92,000, a gift much appreciated by the members.

Soon after this the sum of $4500 was received under the will of Frances R. Harlow of Woburn as a memorial to the late Dr. John Martyn Harlow, the income to be used for the purchase of books.

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NUMEROUS ACCESSIONS

Dr. C. P. Putnam, who had been an officer of the Library since its incorporation, died on April 22, 1914. He had been a most valued member of the Executive Committee and Committee on Library and Finance during all these years. His work on the Committee for the Directory for Nurses will cause his services to be remembered by all who had to do with that excellent institution.

Dr. E. C. Streeter was elected to Dr. Putnam's place on the Committee and served on the sub-committee on the Library. Seeing the crowded state of the basement, he kindly offered to allow the Library to store in his garage many large cases full of periodicals for which we had no room.

Our autograph collection was increased by many letters from Dr. A. N. Blodgett and also from Dr. J. T. Bottomley. Dr. W. N. Bullard was a frequent contributor, giving a number of early printed books, and many sets of uncommon periodicals, especially on nervous and mental diseases. From Mrs. Charles W. Walcott we received the library of Dr. Morrill Wyman in 1914. At the Annual Meeting in 1915 Dr. Francis W. Peabody gave a smoke talk illustrated by the stereopticon on his experiences in China, while engaged in work for the Harvard Medical School.

The Fortieth Annual Report was read at the meeting on January 11, 1916, and in addition to

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giving the happenings of the preceding year, told also of the growth of the Library since 1875. The Directory for Nurses had left the Library and vacated its rooms December 31, 1914, which were now fitted with steel stacks and filled with periodicals, about 12,000 volumes, which had been waiting for an abode. The office of the Directory was shut off from the stack and made into a room for the Librarian, the first that he had had in forty years. This is now used for the meetings of the Committee on Library and Finance. On the wall are two oil paintings by Darius Cobb, presented by Dr. J. B. Ayer, of the "Site of the Boston Medical Library, 1881," when the region was nearly all water and shanties. [Plate XXVIII]

Dr. W. D. Hall gave us his fine ophthalmological library, valuable sets of periodicals, and many monographs, all well bound. Another collection of great worth was that of Dr. B. Joy Jeffries on "Color Blindness," given by his daughter, Mrs. J. Howard Means, on January 1, 1916. This contained nearly everything on the subject, books, journals, monographs, newspaper clippings, photographs, and autograph letters of distinguished oculists and public men, all carefully preserved and arranged for us; probably no better collection on the subject exists in this country. Dr. E. P. Joslin had placed on deposit in the Library in 1901 a number of books and pamphlets on Diabetes, to which he had added each year, thus

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XXVIII.—SITE OF THE BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY, 1881

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making the collection one of great value. In April 1915 he presented it to the Library, in acknowledgment of which the thanks of the Committee on Library and Finance were sent him for his generous gift. At the Annual Meeting in January 1916, Dr. J. M. Little gave a smoke talk on "Medical Practice in Labrador and Newfoundland," which was much enjoyed.

An unexpected and unpleasant result of the great accumulation of books in the basement [Plate XXIX], in 1915, was the settling of the floor to such a degree that new foundation supports of iron and concrete had to be put in, and three rooms thrown into one at an expense of about seven hundred dollars. This gave more convenient and better quarters for work on the books and journals and was an improvement, but expensive.

The war was depriving us of books and journals from Germany, Austria, and Belgium, and the supply from other European countries was much diminished; for example, in 1914 we received by subscription two hundred and forty-one German journals, whereas in 1916 we received none. This is merely an illustration of the disturbing effect that the war has had on all libraries that depend in large measure on Europe as a source of supply for much of their periodical literature. The same can be said of books, although the

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number of foreign books bought is a more variable quantity than of periodicals, even in times of peace. We have tried to make arrangements for getting after the war the journals held up by the war, but how we shall succeed we cannot tell. Not being able to purchase many books in Europe, we were fortunate in being able to buy in this country several large collections (mostly foreign books and journals), and many books have been bought at auction in Boston and ordered from second-hand catalogues in England.

In order to get more room for our cataloguers and a quieter place for our readers of journals, the periodical room,[1] which had been nothing but a passageway, was moved upstairs in 1916 to what had been the pamphlet room, the cataloguers being given the old periodical room, the Assistant Librarian moving into the cataloguers' room. The pamphlets in their boxes were brought downstairs and placed around the walls of the cataloguers' room. This was a great improvement for every one, the employees getting more room and better air, and the readers a place that was away from the confusion of the work incidental to running a busy library.

Dr. George C. Shattuck gave an interesting talk on "Medical Work at the British Hospital in France" at the Annual Meeting in January 1917.

One of our most recent gifts, January 1918, was

[1] See Plates XVII and XXIII.

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XXIX — MATERIAL IN BASEMENT AWAITING DISTRIBUTION IN 1916

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a plaster cast, by Miss Clara Hill, of a group representing the "Woman Physician." This was a present from the New England Women's Medical Society through Dr. Sarah A. Bond and Dr. Isabella D. Kerr. It hangs on the main stairway wall near the entrance to Holmes Hall.

Only about one-half of the Annual Reports of the Library had been printed, the others remaining in manuscript, some very fragmentary and incomplete. The Librarian, after much labor, got together a practically complete set of the Reports from the first to the fortieth, of which he has had typewritten copies made of the Reports never printed. Three of these sets he has had bound, each in two volumes, which are kept in the Library for reference, with an Index to both volumes.

The new building was provided with an elevator well and a room for the necessary machinery, but no elevator. I remember a newspaper reporter who came to the Library soon after the Dedication; noticing the absence of an elevator, he said: "I see that you doctors practice what you preach and walk upstairs, which you say is good exercise." As a matter of fact, every one was so glad to be able to move away from the long-outgrown building on Boylston Place that the new, commodious, and light building on the Fenway seemed

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to have all the beatitudes, even without an elevator, and every one was willing to overlook, at first, what really was a great defect, the large hall for meetings being up three long flights of stairs.

Whatever money happened to be in the treasury had to be paid out for extra shelving, stacks, making over rooms to hold our increasing collections, — and there never seemed to be anything left for an elevator. In 1912 and 1913 the question of installing one was discussed at considerable length by the Committee on Library and Finance, and the House Committee obtained estimates, but the crowded condition of the stacks and work rooms and the urgent need of a new stack-building caused measures looking toward raising money for an elevator to be deferred, to be taken up in connection with the new stacks when the plans were ready. Again, in 1916, the Secretary in his report called attention to the need of an elevator "which would be a great convenience to the older and less vigorous members and visitors and would materially increase the use of the building, especially the halls on the top story."

When the money subscribed for the new stack-building was turned into Liberty Bonds and all idea of building was postponed, the elevator question was deferred as well. Seeing the great need of some means of getting to the top of a high building besides walking up the stairs, a

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need perhaps more plainly seen when the young and vigorous doctors are all away, in camps or in France, leaving only the less active and more short-winded behind, an offer was made by one much interested in the welfare of the Library and its members, Mrs. John W. Farlow, to pay for installing an elevator. Her offer was accepted by the Committee, with thanks, the contract was made, and the work begun in March 1918, with the understanding that it should be ready in time for the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society in June. In spite of great difficulties of transportation incident to the War, the contractors were as good as their word and had the elevator all installed and in running order for the Meeting.

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IX

Growth of the Library

STARTING in 1875 with 133 members, the number increased to 225 in 1881, and to 365 in 1899. The following tables show the increase after moving to The Fenway:

1901	
Life members	7
Active members	410
Associate members	143
Total	560

1906	
Life members	6
Active members	441
Associate members	225
Total	672

	1911	1916	1918
Honorary member	1	1	1
Life members	8	11	11
Fellows	452	484	464
Associates	182	270	328
Total	643	766	804

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GROWTH OF THE LIBRARY

In 1911 Sir William Osler was elected an Honorary Member, the following year Dr. J. S. Billings, and in 1913 Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, in recognition of their distinguished services to medicine and literature. Sir William Osler is now, 1918, the only one of the three living.

I have already given the figures showing the increase in the number of books and pamphlets up to 1900 (see page 108). Starting with 33,000 volumes and 30,000 pamphlets at the time of the removal to the Fenway in 1901, the subsequent growth is shown in the following tables:

	1905	1910	1915	1917
Volumes	50,689	68,890	85,963	93,399
Pamphlets	22,629	44,673	58,045	60,295

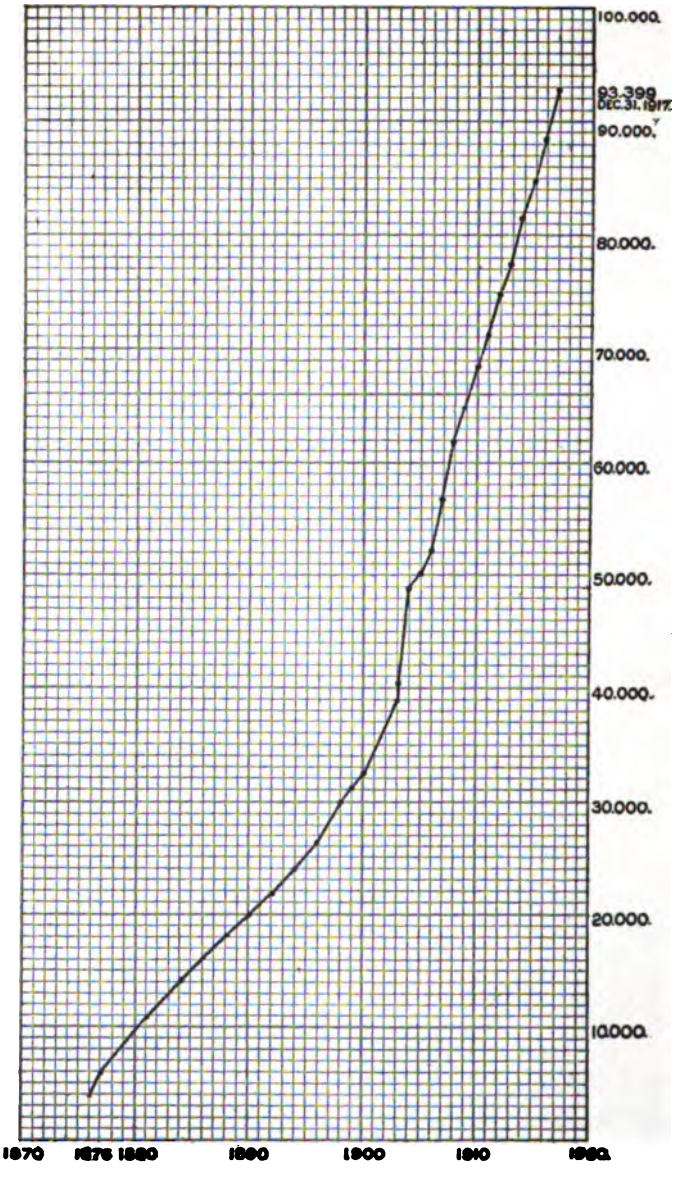
In addition to the above, we have a Duplicate Library of 9,500 volumes regularly catalogued and shelved for the home use of members, or in case of accident to our first set.

The rapidly ascending line of the accompanying Chart tells a tale of steady progress from the very beginning.

A large, growing library is supposed to double in twenty years. If that is true, we should come into the class of "growers," as we have more than trebled in that time, increasing from 28,604 in 1897 to 93,399 in 1917.

I have said little about the number of pamphlets

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XXX. Chart Showing Increase in Number of Volumes from 1875 to 1917

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in the Library, involving as it does the difficult subject of the proper disposition of medical reprints. Of these latter we have many thousands, not arranged or catalogued, hence we are unable to say how many duplicates there are, — a mere conjecture is all that is possible. This applies to a certain extent to our collection of Theses. There are probably forty thousand Theses and Dissertations in the basement waiting to be catalogued before they can be added to the Library.

We have a nearly complete collection of the writings of our first President, Dr. O. W. Holmes, many of them first editions; also numerous photographs and engravings of him, as well as autograph letters and some important manuscripts. Of medical "Incunabula" (printed between 1450 and 1500) we have twenty-four.

Our section on Ophthalmology is large owing to contributions from Dr. Wadsworth, Dr. Hay, Dr. Wyman, Dr. Derby, Dr. Jeffries (Color Blindness), Dr. W. D. Hall, and others. Dermatology is well represented, thanks to the receipt from Dr. Wigglesworth and Dr. J. C. White of their valuable collections. Gynecology and Obstetrics are equally fortunate in having the libraries of Dr. Chadwick, Dr. Engelmann, Dr. Read, and others. Laryngology and Otology, through the bequest of Dr. F. H. Hooper and books from Dr. Farlow, Dr. J. Orne Green, Dr.

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C. J. Blake, and others, are provided with most of the literature on those subjects. The Joslin Collection on Diabetes is of unusual size and importance. We have been fortunate in receiving many valuable libraries on Nervous and Mental Diseases, from Dr. Denny, Dr. J. J. Putnam, Dr. Bullard, Dr. Webber, and Dr. Folsom. The Tiedemann Collection and the Holmes Library have already been referred to.

Special effort has always been made to make the Section on Biography and the History of Medicine as complete as possible, and I think we have been very successful in our endeavors. The same holds true of Vaccination and Small-pox. To our own collection was added the library of Dr. H. A. Martin, which was unusually rich in local and out-of-the-way material.

We have recently been making a point of strengthening our Veterinary Section, in view of the increased importance of the subject, and the interest in Comparative Pathology, Parasitology, and Tropical Medicine. Our Dental Section contains most of the dental journals and a large proportion of the important books, as befits a city noted for its dental institutions and profession.

The Librarian stated in his first Annual Report, in 1876, that there were one hundred and twenty journals regularly received, twenty-three by subscription, the rest the exchanges of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

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In 1881 there were 286 journals on current file
" 1886 " " 345
" 1890 " " 427
" 1895 " " 477
" 1899 " " 459
" 1903 " " 476
" 1908 " " 615
" 1913 " " 675
" 1915 " " 640
" 1917 " " 313

the diminution since 1915 being due to the war.

If we take the year 1913 as the last normal year, we can tabulate our journals on current file as follows: —

	Subscription	*Donation*	*Total*
In English	109	191	300
" French	89	17	106
" German	232	3	235
" Other languages	17	17	34
Totals	447	228	675

In addition to the journals received with fair irregularity, there are also many that are sent as gifts, which come at such irregular intervals and with so many numbers wanting that they can hardly be called "current journals." There are also, unfortunately, a large number of journals issued by drug houses and self-advertising doctors

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XXXI—BOOK PLATE

FOR many years the Library used as a book plate merely a simple label, with the name and address of the Library printed or engraved, on which the name of the donor of the book was written. An oval design, after suggestions by Dr. Chadwick, the motives taken from ancient bas-reliefs, was later drawn by L. S. Ipsen for use on our stationery. In 1904 he made a somewhat larger drawing of this same design, and added to it a rectangular frame with the name of the Library in Latin and the motto "Servat et Docet." This was taken to Sidney L. Smith, who changed the figures somewhat, giving them a more rounded contour to look like bas-reliefs. He engraved this design on copper, making the plate from which are printed the book plates for use in our important books, which are not purchased from the income of funds having their own book plates. Ipsen also made a circular design, with the same motto on an open book, but without the figures, the name of the Library being now given in English. This is for use on our stationery and the Annual Reports. In 1908 he made this into a corporate seal for use in connection with official documents.

See Plate XXV.

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XXXI — THE LIBRARY BOOK PLATE

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which do not deserve to be classed with the respectable journals and are not given a place with the regular periodicals on file.

We have a fairly good collection of medical book plates, most of them gifts and others received by exchange. These have been mounted on cards by some of our kind friends and are kept in a box in alphabetical order. Of medical photographs and engravings we have a large collection, some of considerable value. There is a folio full of fine engravings given by Dr. Holmes, and a splendid lot from the estate of Dr. Clarence W. Spring, of Fitchburg. We try to get photographs of all our members and of as many of the medical men of Massachusetts as possible. I have found this a surprisingly hard undertaking owing to the lack of attention paid to letters or circulars sent out asking for photographs. I feel that physicians ought to consider it a duty to send to some central medical headquarters, like the Boston Medical Library for Massachusetts, their autographed photographs with the date of birth and also the date when the picture was taken. We keep a card catalogue of all our photographs, which enables us to find out immediately what we have.

I have already spoken of our autograph collection, which was arranged many years ago by Mr. C. P. Greenough. This has been added to since

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then, so that now it is of almost unwieldy proportions.

There seem to have been several elements which contributed to the rapid growth of the Library. Before its organization in 1875, there were a number of collections of medical books and journals, especially the former, in and near Boston, none of them active and no one pre-eminent, except the medical department of the Boston Public Library. In 1875 a new element is introduced; a young man just returned from his medical studies in Europe, with a knowledge of French and German medical literature, starts an aggressive campaign and urges all, societies as well as individuals, to contribute to a new library not connected with any school or society, to be managed by physicians for physicians and not as a collection of text-books for medical students, and not as a minor part of a general library. This served to eliminate the local jealousies which might have arisen if one of the old Society libraries had undertaken to go ahead at the expense of the others.

The value of medical periodicals was just becoming understood, thanks to the work in Washington of Dr. Billings and his associates, in which Dr. Chadwick shared. The latter thus had an early and discriminating knowledge of what to look for in his "raids" on the libraries of his friends and others. This association with the

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originators of the Index Catalogue was most fortunate, as giving him valuable information; it gave him also access to the great mass of duplicates in the Surgeon General's Library for exchange.

After the Boston Library was well started, a liberal policy in regard to exchange of duplicates with other libraries and a generous attitude toward those wishing to make use of the books made friends, who often remembered to reciprocate when they were able. Making the Library the headquarters of many societies without connection with any, made them all interested in its prosperity, and reminded them that the Library was the institution to take care of anything medical that they wished to have preserved.

The early officers and members of the Library are deserving of all praise for their loyalty through times of hardship and poverty. I have been unable to mention many of them by name, but the success of their labors is a measure of the gratitude due them by those who use the Library to-day. A very long list would be necessary to include all the names of donors of books and journals received; lack of space has not allowed me to refer to more than a very few of them, much to my regret. The generosity of our friends has filled our shelves to overflowing, which I trust is a sign of their approval of the work done by the Library in the past. More

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room is needed for our rapidly growing collections of books, and we have every confidence that other kind friends will help us in the future.

A record of those using the Library shows a steady increase in number:

	1905	1907	1910	1912
Members	3,103	2,938	3,458	3,462
Non-members	3,497	5,112	7,728	8,725
Total	6,600	8,050	11,186	12,187

	1914	1915
Members	4,680	4,160
Non-members	9,425	7,985
Total	14,105 (14 months)	12,145 (10 months)

	1916	1917
Members	3,776	2,671
Non-members	6,412	4,740
Total	10,188	7,711

The decrease in 1917 is due to the abnormal conditions arising from the war.

It is interesting that the number of non-members using the Library is much larger than of members. An analysis of who these non-members are, shows that medical and dental students are by far the most numerous. Physicians of Boston and vicinity who have never joined the Library are probably next in number. There are also many special workers who are looking up statistics, making translations, or preparing bibliographies for Societies, as well as others who are doing

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similar work for physicians who are writing books or papers. Those engaged in the study or teaching of gymnastics and the so-called "Physical Culture" seem to be very numerous; their demands are for books on anatomy and hygiene.

With all these, and many other classes of readers, coming to the Library, it is not surprising that the non-members should outnumber the members. Only members may take out books, and there are certain classes of books restricted to the use of members even in the Library.

For its first three years, the Library relied on the dues of its one hundred and thirty-three and more members, helped out by a few voluntary contributions, to take care of the expenses. In 1878 the Boylston Place house was bought for $13,000, which was raised by subscription. Another $8,000 was spent for alterations, and this also was gradually paid off by contributions, with the help of money from the Directory for Nurses. The number of members increased, bringing in larger dues, and the rent of rooms to medical societies added about one thousand dollars a year until 1901. The St. Botolph street land was bought in 1887 for $15,000, most of the money being raised by mortgage; this also was paid off in a few years, leaving the Library free from debt when the campaign to raise funds for the new building was started in 1899. There

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was even the remnant of an old building fund, $5220, which was available. The interest from the Life Membership Fund of $1400 was used only for the general purposes of the Library and that from the Books Funds was restricted to the purchase of books.

The campaign of Dr. Homans' committee resulted in the raising of about $79,000 by subscription. The Fenway lots cost $42,000 and the building $126,000, to pay for which there was $23,500 from the sale of the Boylston Place building and $22,500 obtained from the sale of the St. Botolph street land. Fifty thousand dollars was raised by mortgage, the interest of one half of which was paid by the young men who had agreed to be responsible for this for five years.

The need for securing the lot next the Library on the south led to its purchase in 1903 for $24,000, paid for by mortgage. Later in the same year $50,000 was received from the Robert Charles Billings bequest, $10,000 of which was for a book-fund and $40,000 was used toward paying off the mortgages.

In 1905 the assets were: —

Land	$ 66,000.00
Building	126,404.97
Books, pictures, etc.	15,000.00
Life Membership Fund	1,374.63

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GROWTH OF THE LIBRARY

Book Funds:	
Bowditch	300.00
Dolliver	240.00
Minot	1,500.00
Forster	500.00
Winsor	1,000.00
Billings	10,000.84
Cash on hand	940.17
	$223,260.61
Mortgages	36,000.00
	$187,260.61

Medical students had always had access to the rooms of the Library for reading, but without permission to take out books. After we moved to the Fenway and our resources were much greater and our expenses correspondingly larger, the Faculties of the Harvard Medical School and of Tufts Medical School voted to make annual payments of $200 each in consideration of the privileges offered to students, and particularly to help toward paying the extra expense of keeping open evenings.

In 1907 the Potter bequest of about $159,000 was received; and in 1910, $5000 was paid toward the mortgage, leaving $31,000 which still remains unpaid.

The Treasurer's Report for 1910 gives the following assets: —

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Cash in hand	$ 3,707.22
Investments.	176,754.11
Plant.	213,280.87
	$393,742.20

The change in the appraised value of the building and its contents (the latter being raised from $15,000 to $100,000) brought about an enhanced value of the plant, which in December 1917 was estimated at $307,511.00; and the receipt of the Wadsworth, Harlow, Johnson, and Wyman bequests raised the investments to $293,918.81, which with the cash in hand, $5,880.74, brought the total assets up to $607,310.55, from which the $31,000 mortgage is to be deducted.

For the year 1917

Income:

From Investments	$15,851.45
" Rents	1,920.00
" Dues	5,815.00
" Miscellaneous . . .	1,497.27
Total Income	$25,083.72

Expenditures:

Mortgage Interest	$1,410.30
Salaries	8,572.57
Light, heat, and water	1,440.86
Care of rooms	711.98

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Repairs	391.22
Stationery, printing, and postage	625.74
Transportation	195.69
Books	2,939.10
Periodicals	1,598.41
Binding	1,785.15
Completion of Files	317.14
Miscellaneous Expenses	624.08
Insurance	1,352.14
Total Expenditures	$21,964.38
Excess of Income	[1]3,119.34
	$25,083.72

I have quoted these figures for 1917 to show the financial condition of the Library at this time, and to remind us how far we have advanced since the meagre days of 1875.

[1] Restricted as to use.

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X

Government of the Library

THE Constitution and By-laws adopted at the Organization of the Library in 1875 were as follows: —

CONSTITUTION

Name. This Association shall be called the Boston Medical Library Association.

Objects. The objects of this Association are to form a Library of medical and scientific books, journals and pamphlets for ready reference; to render the current medical periodicals at once accessible to the profession generally, and to establish a place of resort for the medical profession.

Members. All members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the Massachusetts Dental Society, the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, and such other persons as may be approved by the Committee on Admission, shall be eligible to election into the Association.

Officers. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secre-

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tary, Librarian, an Executive Committee and a Committee on Admissions.

Amendments. Any proposed alteration or amendment in the Constitution or Code of By-laws must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee by two members of the Association; the said Committee shall bring it before the Association at the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting called for the purpose, the members having been previously notified of the proposed change.

BY-LAWS

I. The names of all Candidates for Membership must be proposed in writing by two members; such nominations must be handed to the Secretary, who shall cause them to be posted in the rooms for at least four weeks: the names shall subsequently be brought by the Secretary before the Committee on Admissions, and an affirmative vote of a majority of that Committee shall constitute an election. Candidates thus elected shall become members by signing the Constitution and By-laws and paying the assessment for the current year.

II. The annual dues of this Association shall be *ten* dollars, payable in advance. [*Amended October* 3, 1876, *by substituting* six *instead of* ten.]

III. Any member who shall neglect to pay his

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assessment for one year shall forfeit his membership on vote of the Executive Committee.

Any member of the Association may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a Special Meeting called for the purpose.

IV. The President shall preside at the Meetings of the Association.

The Vice-President shall preside at the Meetings of the Association in the absence of the President.

The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Association, and shall be the Chairman, *ex-officio*, of the Committee on Admissions. At the Annual Meeting he shall read the Records of the previous Meeting and also the names of those who have been admitted to, or have retired from the Association during the past year.

The Treasurer shall receive all dues and donations of money, pay all drafts on him when signed by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and keep a regular account of the financial concerns of the Association, an abstract of which, accompanied by satisfactory vouchers, shall be read at each Annual Meeting.

VI. The Librarian shall have charge of all publications belonging to this Association, shall present a report on the condition of the Library at the Annual Meeting, and shall be the Chairman, *ex-officio*, of the Executive Committee.

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GOVERNMENT OF THE LIBRARY

VII. An Assistant Librarian may be appointed by the Executive Committee; he shall have, under the direction of the Librarian, the general charge of the rooms and Library; he shall be in daily attendance at the rooms, and shall be paid such salary as the Executive Committee shall deem proper.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VIII. At the Meeting whereat this Constitution and By-laws are adopted a Committee of four shall be chosen by ballot, two of whom shall serve for two years, and two until the first Annual Meeting. At every Annual Meeting two members shall be chosen to serve on the Committee for two years.

The Executive Committee shall have entire charge of the Library and rooms and all matters pertaining to the general management of the Association not otherwise provided for.

In case of any vacancy occurring in the Executive Committee by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Committee shall have power to fill such vacancies until the next Annual Meeting.

IX. The Committee on Admissions shall consist of four members to be chosen by ballot at the Annual Meeting. They shall have the right to admit all Candidates who meet their approbation to membership of the Association when brought before them by the Secretary. They shall like-

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wise have the right to grant the use and privileges of the Library and rooms to any suitable persons for a period not exceeding one month.

X. An Auditing Committee of three members shall be appointed annually by the President, which shall audit the Treasurer's account in time to report at the Annual Meeting.

XI. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held on the first Tuesday in October, beginning in 1876, when an election of officers for the ensuing year shall be held by ballot, the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian shall be read and such other business be transacted as may be presented.

One tenth of the whole number of members shall constitute a quorum.

XII. A Special Meeting of the Association shall be called by the Secretary at the request of the Executive Committee or of any ten members.

All notifications of Special Meetings shall state the business to be brought before the Association, and no other business shall be transacted at such a Meeting.

XIII. All notifications of Meetings shall be sent out by the Secretary at least one week before the Meeting.

The first names signed to this were: O. W. Holmes, Henry I. Bowditch, Wm. W. Morland, Calvin Ellis, James R. Chadwick, W. L. Richardson, others following to a total of seventy-six.

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GOVERNMENT OF THE LIBRARY

When the Association was incorporated in 1877 the original By-laws were repealed and a new set adopted, very similar to the original ones. The President was chosen by the Executive Committee from among its number, as before. The most important change related to the Librarian, who instead of being Chairman of the Executive Committee, *ex-officio*, was no longer a member of the Committee, but was under its direction. It is an interesting question how the future of the Library would have been changed if the Librarian, Dr. Chadwick, had remained Chairman of the Executive Committee as well.

These By-laws continued in substantially the same form for twenty-one years, until November 1898, when the Committee on Admissions was discontinued, the names of candidates for membership coming directly to the Executive Committee for approval, without having to be posted for four weeks. The date of the Annual Meeting was changed to the second Tuesday in November.

After moving to the Fenway in 1901 it was deemed advisable to raise the Annual Dues to ten dollars, and in order to get more members, a new class of membership was established, called Associates; this included those eligible for membership provided not more than five years had elapsed since taking their medical degree, and also those living outside the limits of old Boston or that part of Roxbury included in the Suffolk

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District of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Associate members were to have all the privileges of active members except the right to vote or borrow books, and were to pay one half the assessment of active members. (In December 1910 the restriction in regard to borrowing books was removed.) The formation of this new class brought to the Library many of the young men and also served to attract a goodly number of the older men from Roxbury, Dorchester, Brookline, and Cambridge.

The enlargement of the activities of the Library and the discussion looking to the possible formation of an Academy, showed the desirability of having a larger number of the members interested in its management. Under the old By-laws, the Executive Committee elected the President, directed the Librarian and admitted new members. The plan for applying to the Legislature for a new charter had been laid on the table by the Committee in January 1904, and on May 13th of the same year the old By-laws were repealed by vote of the Library and a new set adopted.

The officers were now to be a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Librarian, all to be elected by ballot at the Annual Meeting of the Library; also a Committee on Library and Finance, a Committee on Medical and Social Meetings and a Committee on Membership and Elections, who together form the Council

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of the Corporation. One Vice-President is chosen each year for three years; the members of the Committees are also elected for three years. The Committee on Library and Finance consists of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and five other members and has charge of the finances, expenditures and general management of the Library, corresponding more or less to the former Executive Committee. The Committee on Medical and Social Meetings consists of three members, the Committee on Membership and Elections of five. The Council of twenty has as its duties to consider the general needs of the Corporation, confer with and advise the standing committees when requested by them, and bring such recommendations as it may deem fit before the corporation for action. It also has jurisdiction over the remission of dues of members.

There were made four classes of members: Fellows corresponding to the former active members except that only persons who have received the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Science may become Fellows, Associates as before, Life Members, those paying two hundred dollars at one time, and Honorary Members, such distinguished persons as the Corporation shall elect on nomination by the Council.

The active management of the Library is in the hands of the Committee on Library and Finance, which meets at the Library once a month except

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during the summer. Its sub-committees are: a Committee on the Library, of which the Librarian is Chairman, the House Committee, and the Committee on Finance. The enforcement of its rules and the general supervision of the Library are looked after by the Assistant Librarian, under the direction of the Librarian and the House Committee. The Assistant Librarian is now, 1918, Mr. James F. Ballard, who has been connected with the Library since 1892. His duties when second assistant were mainly with the periodicals, and in 1909, on the retirement of Dr. Brigham, he was raised to his present position, in which his services have proved of great value to the Library.

Several minor changes have been made in the By-laws since 1904. The date of the Annual Meeting was changed in 1915 to the second Tuesday in January, and in January 1918 the Committee on Library and Finance were empowered to declare vacancies in that Committee during the present European War. This came about as the result of the absence with the army in France of several members of the Committee and the consequent difficulty of communicating with them.

RULES FOR THE USE OF THE LIBRARY AND BOOKS

The first set to be printed appeared in the Tenth and Eleventh (conjoint) Reports of 1886, and is as follows:

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GOVERNMENT OF THE LIBRARY

Regulations Established by the Executive Committee for the Use of the Books

All books which have been in possession of the Library for six months, except serials of which there are no duplicate files, and except works of reference, may be taken out of the Library by members and retained for one week. Books which have been printed two years, with the exceptions above stated, may be retained for two weeks. A fine of five cents shall be incurred for every extra day any such book is retained. After such book has been absent from the Library three days beyond the permitted time the holder is to be notified by the Assistant Librarian, who is to keep an account of all books thus borrowed.

Only two volumes may be borrowed by any single member at any one time.

The use of the Library may be extended by the Librarian, as a matter of courtesy, to physicians residing at a distance from Boston.

The Librarian may, at his discretion, loan to Libraries that loan books to the Association.

The rooms will be open, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9:30 A.M., to 6 P.M., on Tuesday and Friday evenings, from 7 to 10 P.M.

These have been superseded by the present Rules, which have been in operation for a number of years, as follows:

1. From the middle of October to the first of

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2. Books, newly acquired, and published within a year, shall not be loaned during the first three months.

3. All other books and pamphlets, not more than three at a time, may be taken out for a period of seven days.

4. Periodicals, not more than three volumes at a time, may be taken out for a period of seven days.

5. Periodicals of the current volume or year may not be taken from the Library, unless there be duplicates.

6. Members may renew their loans of books, by telephone or otherwise, for the same periods, provided they are not wanted by other members.

7. The above privilege, of taking books from the building, shall not extend to such books, periodicals or anatomical plates as are of exceptional value or rarity.

8. A fine of five cents a day will be assessed upon a member for each book that he retains beyond the time allowed. He shall, moreover, be debarred the borrowing of other books until

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the previous ones are returned and his fines are paid.

9. Any member who has not paid his dues before the second Tuesday in December in any year shall be deprived of the privilege of taking books from the library until his dues are paid.

By order of the

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*Frederick Irving Knight	1896–1909
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George Brune Shattuck	1904–1906
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Morton Prince	1904–1914
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